THURSDAY
September 18, 2025

BENGALURU
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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 222

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Smriti sizzles as India levels series in style

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NEARBY

ECI to roll out SIR in State after September 25

BENGALURU
Amid the row over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, the Election Commission of India (ECI) is gearing up to launch an SIR of voter lists in Karnataka, anytime after September 25.
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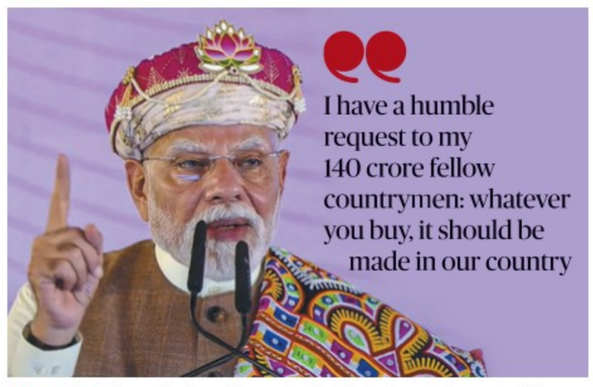
Panchamasalis to go with 'Hindu' for religion

HUBBALLI
The Lingayat Panchamasali community, which has now three religious Peethas in Karnataka, has decided to go with "Lingayat Panchamasali" nomenclature during the socio-educational survey (caste census) in the State. » PAGE 6

Amid U.S. tariffs row, PM pushes local production

Indians must embrace Swadeshi, as it will lead to the country's development, says Modi; he also highlights the strength of armed forces who 'brought Pak. to its knees' during Operation Sindoor

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL



Big push: Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the launch of the PM MITRA Park at Dhar in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged citizens to buy only made-in-India products and traders to sell only indigenously manufactured goods as he laid the foundation stone for the country's first PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) park in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district.

His remarks came a day after the latest round of talks on an India-U.S. trade agreement, amid tensions over U.S. tariffs on Indian products, even as U.S. President Donald Trump extended birthday greetings to Mr. Modi.

"This is the season of festivals, and at this very time, we must remember the mantra of Swadeshi and incorporate it into our lives. I have a humble request to my 140 crore fellow countrymen: whatever you buy, it should be made in our country," Mr. Modi said at Bhainsola in Dhar.

Saying he wants to build a developed India by 2047, he added, "Whatever our businesspersons sell must be made in our country. Now we must make Swadeshi the foundation of a developed India. This will happen when we proudly buy products made in the country. We must first determine whether the product is made in the country. When we do this, our money remains in the country and leads to the development of the country."

Referring to Operation Sindoor, which began with Indian air strikes on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on May 7, Mr. Modi said the armed forces had "brought Pakistan to its knees in the blink of an eye".

"Just yesterday, the nation and the world saw that a Pakistani terrorist shared his ordeal while crying," he said, alluding to a viral video of Jaish-e-Mohammad commander Ilyas Kashmiri, who claimed that the family of group chief Masood Azhar was "torn into pieces on May 7".

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SC proposes jail for stubble burners; not feasible, says Centre

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court and the Union government differed sharply on Wednesday over how to deal with farmers who pollute the air by burning stubble ahead of the winter season.

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, heading a Bench, advocated a return to criminal prosecution of errant agriculturists, even suggesting separate legislation. The Centre, however, maintained that its policy was to take farmers along rather than put them behind bars.

"Why do you not reintroduce criminal prosecution for stubble-burning? If some people are behind the bars, it will give the right message," the Chief Justice asked the Centre.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Union government, said the issue boiled down to implementation by the State governments, noting that farmers had been exempted from prosecution under the Commission for Air Quality Management Act as a matter of policy.

It would not be feasible to prosecute farmers criminally, she argued.

> Why do you not reintroduce criminal prosecution for stubble-burning? If some people are behind the bars, it will give the right message
> **B.R. GAVAI**
> CJI

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

ED takes former MUDA chief into custody

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU/BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has taken former Commissioner of Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) G.T. Dinesh Kumar into custody. He was arrested by the ED in Bengaluru late on Tuesday and produced before a special court on Wednesday.

The ED, which had sought permission from the special court to prosecute him, had also carried out searches at two residential premises connected to him in Bengaluru under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

During his tenure between 2022 and 2024, he is accused of indulging in large-scale illegal allotment of MUDA sites.

CONTINUED ON
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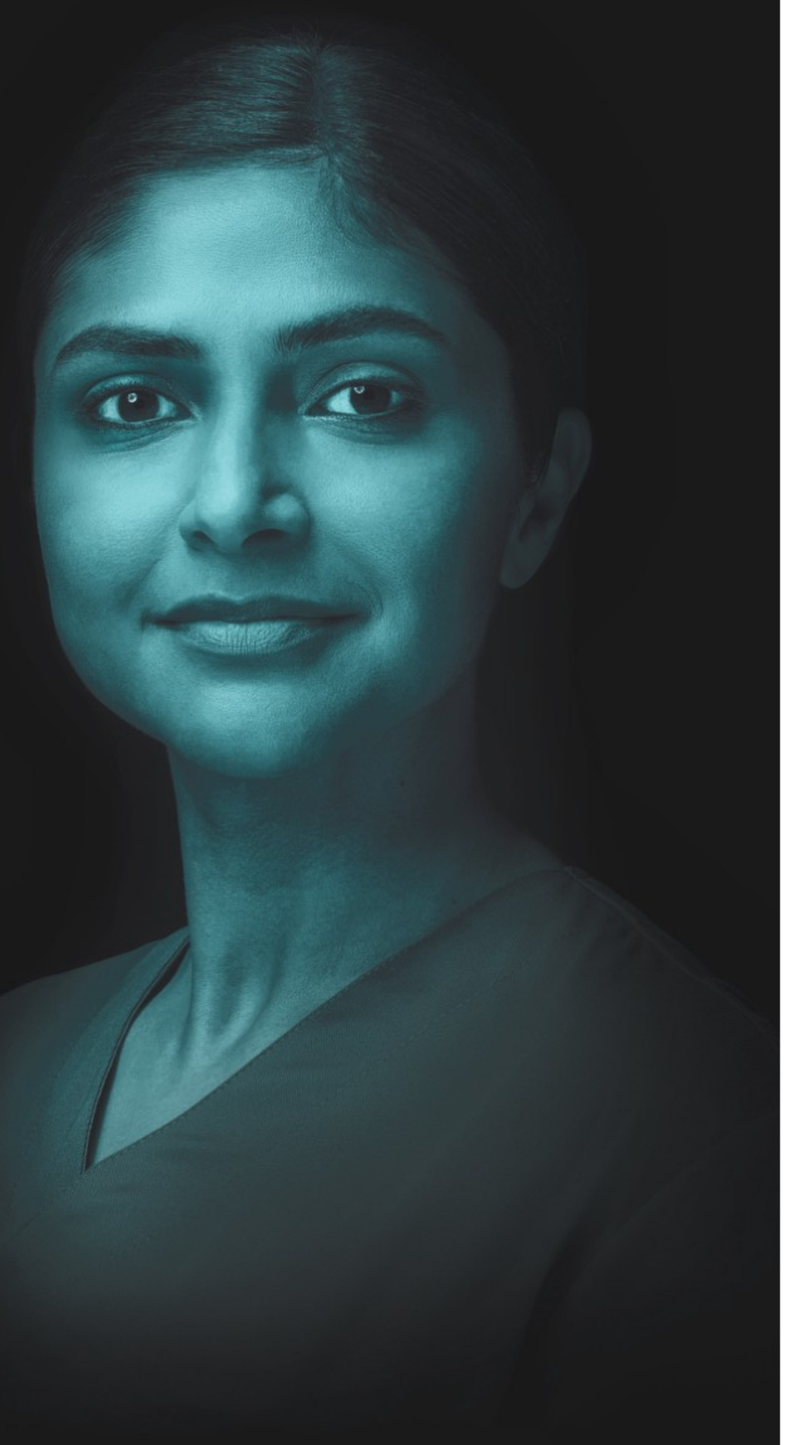

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The X-factor in Men in Blue's white-ball arsenal

The maverick all-rounder's brute power and impeccable timing make him the perfect answer to India's quest in unearthing multi-skilled players who can produce the right pace and hit big; he will be integral to the grand T20 showpiece early next year

R. Kaushik
DUBAI

ANI

It's been a quiet T20 Asia Cup for Hardik Pandya. That will change over the next week and more but for now, the maverick all-rounder has bowled four overs, taken one wicket and held two catches. He hasn't even been required to don his pads; India have won their opening Group A fixtures, against UAE and Pakistan, by nine and seven wickets respectively.

The bit part Hardik has played hitherto is no reflection on his abilities. If he has been required to send down only half his allotment of overs, it's largely due to India's investment in spin, which is paying off handsomely. Hardik took the new ball ahead of Jasprit Bumrah in both outings. Needed for just a solitary over in the UAE opener, he bowled a two-over first spell against Pakistan, dismissing Saim Ayub with the first legal delivery of the match, and was taken for 16 in the last of the 20 overs, Shaheen Afridi getting stuck into him with successive leg-side sixes.

Hardik fancies the short ball as a wicket-taking option, which is no surprise given how much belief he has in himself. The ploy has worked numerous times, but it has also cost him and his team quite a few runs. The player and the leadership group are both comfortable with the trade-off when others around him are getting the job done. And they certainly are - after all, India have won 19 of their last 22 matches in the last 14 and a half months.

India are viewing the Asia Cup as an end in itself, but also as a means to an end. The immediate objective is to win the tournament, retain the trophy clinched two years ago in the 50-over format in Colombo and reiterate why they are the top dogs in the 20-over game. The larger-picture aim revolves around sifting through the resources to zero in on the 15 that the decision-making core will rely on to mount a successful defence in February-March of the World Cup won last year in the Caribbean. In some ways, both those goals are in alignment, in others, they aren't. What everyone agrees on is that Hardik is integral to India's plans, here at the continental faceoff as well as at the larger extravaganza to be hosted by India and Sri Lanka early next year.

A unique and much sought after entity in Indian cricket, Hardik is a genuine all-rounder, but an all-rounder with a difference, nevertheless. Blessed in the last several years with a plethora of spinners who are more than accomplished with the bat - R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar - India have had lesser success in unearthing multi-skilled players who can ally big-hitting with brisk medium pace. Hardik is a massive answer to their prayers, therefore. He is more than just brisk medium-pace and he can hit the ball a long, long way with effortless ease, courtesy a grand amalgam of brute power and impeccable timing.

In the Asia Cup now, and at the 50-over Champions Trophy in these same lands some seven months back, Hardik's presence has enabled India to play the conditions superbly without compromising on core strength. In the longer white-ball iteration, India fielded four specialist spinners in an ODI for the first time in their league fixture against New Zealand in February, an approach they stuck with for the semifinal against Australia and the final, also against the Kiwis. They could afford to play Axar, Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakaravarthy even in Bumrah's injury-enforced absence because Hardik could slot in as the second pacer alongside Mohammed Shami.

Statistics will suggest that with the ball - and with the bat, to which we shall come shortly - the 31-year-old had an unremarkable tournament. But then again, that's what statistics do, don't they? They only tell half the story until you scratch the surface. Varun and Shami finished with nine wickets apiece, Kuldeep had seven and left-arm finger-spinners Axar and Jadeja matched each other in wickets (5) and economy (4.35). Hardik, one of 10 players to figure in all the five matches played by Rohit Sharma's all-conquering unit, picked up four wickets at the highest economy rate of the seven bowlers India summoned - Harshit Rana had to be left out after the second league tie once India decided to unleash Varun.

Would India have been happier had Hardik gone at less than 5.83 runs per over? For sure. But it wasn't only because of his bowling that he was in the XI. There is an equally impressive secondary (or is it primary?) facet that thrusts him into the category of near-indispensable.

Until his protesting body dictated otherwise, Hardik seemed destined for a long, successful career in the five-day game. Early evidence of his comfort against the red ball came on debut in Galle in July 2017, when he smacked a 49-ball 50 in his first innings. Two innings later, he unleashed mayhem while adding 66 for the last wicket with Umesh Yadav, hammering seven sixes on his way to 108 off a mere 96 deliveries in Pallekele. His next Test innings, five months later, was equally jaw-dropping. While the rest of the celebrated batting unit collapsed around him with Cheteshwar Pujara's stodgy 26 the next highest, Hardik batted with flair and authority in Cape Town against a rampaging South African attack comprising Dale Steyn, current India bowling coach Morne Morkel, Vernon Philander and Kagiso Rabada.

Striding in with India reeling at 76 for five in response to the hosts' 286 at beautiful Newlands, Hardik was unstoppable. During a 99-run eighth-wicket association with Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Hardik lay into the four-pronged pace attack. Fours cascaded off his willow with unerring regularity and he was well on course for a second successive hundred until attempting to ramp Rabada and edging to Quinton de Kock behind the sticks. Hardik's 93 came off a mere 95 deliveries, studded with 14 fours and a six. As far as counter-attacking efforts with the backs to the wall go, this was right up there with the best.

PTI

As a Test bowler, Hardik was just getting used to the demands and the nuances on India's next overseas tour, to England in the summer of 2018. Three for 66 in a losing cause at Lord's was backed up by five for 28, coming on as the fifth bowler, in the next fixture in Nottingham. In a wonderful display of swing bowling under overcast skies at Trent Bridge, Hardik nicked off Joe Root, Jonny Bairstow, Chris Woakes and Adil Rashid before trapping Stuart Broad in front, taking just five overs for his maiden - and only - five-wicket haul. And he did so not by delivering at 125-130 kmphs and letting the conditions do the rest, but by repeatedly touching 140, keeping batters looking for release from Bumrah, Shami and Ishant Sharma honest.

Hardik's cup of joy spilled over with a run-a-ball 52 in the second innings as India surged to a 203-run victory. Few, Hardik included, would have even suspected at the time that he'd figure in just one further Test before stepping away from the five-day format. 532 runs and 17 wickets from 11 Tests don't seem flash, not viewed through the narrow prism of numbers, but one of the great shames as far as Indian cricket is concerned is how quickly a Test career that promised so much ended in unfortunate circumstances.

Where one door slammed shut due to reasons beyond anyone's control, Hardik emerged as a key figure in the white-ball scheme of things. His versatility with the ball and his pyrotechnics with the bat - evidenced by averages of 32.82 and 27.87 to go with strike-rates of 110.89 and 141.67 in 94 ODIs and 116 T20Is in addition to 91 and 95 wickets respectively - has encouraged different team managements to play the conditions seamlessly while losing nothing in overall strength. Hardik has proved his worth repeatedly, not least in the final of the T20 World Cup last year when his dismissal of Heinrich Klaasen catalysed India's stirring charge to the title when all seemed lost. In the Champions Trophy, he settled tense chases in the semis and finals against Australia and New Zealand with unfettered ball-striking. Consecutive sixes off Adam Zampa with the semifinal delicately balanced alone was worth more than 99 tournament runs, strike-rate 106.45 (easily the highest among the Indians).

Given the munificence of India's top-order, Hardik hasn't had a lot to do in T20I cricket in the last year or so. Slotting in between Nos. 5 and 7, he has, however, pulled his weight whenever required; two of his last three knocks have produced 40 (35b) and 53 (30b) against England at home in January. At the ICC Academy where India have been putting in four-hour training stints, Hardik is among those honing his range-hitting skills that has seen many a white ball disappear into the night sky.

Hardik gives the impression that he doesn't care what the world thinks of him, but he is a deeply passionate and proud individual whose recently acquired blond crop of hair isn't so much a sign of rebellion as living life on his own terms so long as it doesn't impact others adversely. He had justifiable aspirations of succeeding Rohit as the T20I skipper after the World Cup, but that honour has been bestowed on Suryakumar Yadav. It must have come as a huge blow, but Hardik has kept his thoughts to himself while plunging whole-heartedly to supporting his captain in all ways conceivable.

He had a difficult IPL 2024 when he was booed across the length and breadth of the country upon replacing the popular but deposed Rohit as the Mumbai Indians captain. There was a certain poignancy to Hardik's immense contribution to India's victory in the World Cup final, which included last-over wickets of David Miller and Rabada. The kiss on the cheek from Rohit in the middle of Hardik's live interaction with the host broadcaster immediately after India's remarkable heist must have come as a particularly soothing balm. Don't let Hardik's nonchalant exterior fool you. He is every bit as sensitive as they come.

THE GIST

- The ongoing Asia Cup has been rather quite for Hardik who has bowled four overs, taken one wicket and held two catches and wasn't even required to don his pads.
- A genuine all-rounder, his presence in the Asia Cup and the Champions trophy has enabled the team to play without compromising on core strength.
- Given that the door slammed on his Test career, Hardik proved his versatility with the ball and his pyrotechnics with the bat at almost every opportunity in white-ball cricket, not least seen in the T20 World Cup final when his dismissal of Heinrich Klaasen took India closer to the title.

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ORR infra woes: Industry veterans rally around tech firm Invite by A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BlackBuck, a truck technology firm, seems to have triggered a fresh outcry in Bengaluru, after its co-founder and CEO Rajesh Kumar Yabaji, on Tuesday, through X, announced that the company was moving out of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) area as its employees were finding the commute to work tough under bad traffic conditions.

Mr. Yabaji wrote on X that, "ORR (Bellandur) has been our office + home for nine years but it was getting very hard to continue. We have decided to move out."

Explaining what led to this decision, he said that the average commute for his colleagues had shot up to 1.5-plus hours one way. "Roads are full of potholes and dust, coupled with the lowest intent to get them rectified. Don't see any of this changing in the next five years,'' his post said.

In a quick response to Mr. Yabaji's post, Mohandas Pai, former Infosys CFO, wrote on X, "Big big failure of governance in Bengaluru." He tagged Bengaluru Development Minister and Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on the post, adding, "Please see, cos are moving out of ORR. Situation beyond hope. Please intervene." He sought the intervention of IT Minister Priyank Kharge and Greater Bengaluru Authority Commissioner M. Maheswar Rao.

Joining the chorus, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, founder of Biocon, wrote on X, "This is serious. Emergency measures needed to fix these issues." She also urged Mr. Shivakumar to take emergency measures to fix the traffic snarl and infrastructure issues.

Mr. Yabaji's post received some 8,71,000 views (at the time of writing this story). One of the viewers commented, "Great decision. Plus, real estate is massively overvalued in that entire stretch (ORR). Builders are asking more than the current prices of Chicago and Dubai for the infrastructure of Somalia."

The ORR region has been witnessing a huge spike in traffic this year after companies made office attendance mandatory after years of hybrid and remote work arrangements.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city battle soon became an inter-State rival pitch, when Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh offered a possible relocation to the CEO who flagged the pothole issue in Bengaluru.

"Hi Rajesh, can I interest you in relocating your company to Vizag? We are rated among top 5 cleanest cities in India, are building best-in-class infra, and have been rated the safest city for women. Please send me a DM," the minister has said in a post on X.

Yellow Line cuts peak-hour congestion by 37.5% on south Bengaluru roads

According to a study conducted by the Bengaluru Traffic Police reviewed by *The Hindu*, congestion on the stretch has fallen by 30.6% overall

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

Opening of the Yellow Line of Namma Metro between R.V. Road and Bommasandra has eased traffic congestion along the stretch in south Bengaluru, reducing by 38% during morning peak hours and 37% during evening peak hours on weekdays.

These findings are based on an official study conducted by the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP). The report reviewed by *The Hindu* further notes that weekday non-peak hours saw an average congestion drop of 17%. Overall, the stretch has seen 30.6% drop in congestion and 37.5% during peak hours.

The 19.15 km-long metro line has had an even greater impact on weekends.

According to the BTP's impact analysis, congestion reduced by 69% in the mornings and 39% in the evenings during peak hours on weekends. During weekend non-peak hours, congestion dropped by 58%.

The BTP studied congestion data recorded through the Actionable Intelligence for Sustainable Traffic Management (ASTraM) system, a smart traffic engine that gives insights on road traffic scenarios. For this study, data collected between August 11 and 31 was compared with historical data. The analysis defined 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. as morning peak hours, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. as non-peak hours, and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. as evening peak hours.

According to the BTP's impact analysis, congestion reduced by 69% in the mornings and 39% in the evenings during peak hours on weekends. FILE PHOTO

Relief for smaller roads

Gopal M. Byakod, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), (Traffic South), told *The Hindu* that the decline, particularly during peak hours, has made field traffic management easier.

"The drop is a positive sign, especially since it comes despite fewer trains. Once BMRCL adds more train sets to reduce the headway, congestion is expected to ease further, addressing several hyperlocal traffic issues at the lane level," he said.

Another senior officer highlighted a more critical impact of the Yellow Line.

"Major junctions usually face severe congestion daily, which in turn creates pressure on smaller connecting roads. Managing traffic on those roads is more important to clear bottlenecks. With fewer vehicles now, it has become relatively easier," he said.

Key junctions

The new line has also helped reduce congestion on Hosur Main Road and at Madiwala, a key hub for inter-State buses, according to police. The stretch covers four of the city's most notorious junctions and nearly 10 bottlenecks. The usual notorious junctions - BTM Circle, Silk Board Junction, Hosa Road Junction, and Electronics City - have shown visible improvement.

According to the traffic police, these junctions typically see congestion because employees from central south Bengaluru travel daily to corporate hubs further south.

The Yellow Line has established a crucial link, reducing vehicle density on the road.

Anusha M., who earlier commuted daily from BTM Layout to Electronics City by scooter, now prefers the metro.

"Even with the wait time, it is more comfortable and time-saving. It's better for health as well," she said, adding that while many two-wheeler riders have shifted to the metro, some of her friends switched back due to overcrowding.

Wednesday traffic

The study also noted that Wednesdays continue to see the highest congestion among weekdays.

Traditionally, morning peak congestion on Wednesdays stood at 37.02 km and evening peak at 64.10 km. After introduction of the metro, it was reduced to 26.79 km in the mornings and 40.67 km in the evenings. It should be noted that the congestion length is studied with data of not only main roads but also connecting roads.

Despite the overall improvement, non-peak congestion on Mondays and Wednesdays has risen by 25% and 21%, respectively, since the Yellow Line's launch.

Mr. Byakod urged commuters to use the metro as much as possible, as the BMRCL will be adding new train sets.

Insights

Congestion time	Reduction percentage
Morning peak hours congestion on weekdays	38%
Evening peak hours congestion on weekdays	37%
Non peak hours congestion on weekdays	17%
Morning peak hours congestion on weekends	69%
Evening peak hours congestion on weekends	39%
Non peak hours congestion on weekends	58%

Source: ASTraM, Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP)

Govt. releases ₹125 crore to newly formed city corporations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government approved an initial grant of ₹125 crore for the five new city corporations created by dividing the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). Each corporation under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will receive ₹25 crore to manage regular administrative and operational expenses until a system is put in place for direct tax payments into their own accounts.

Under GBA

The new corporations have been established under the Greater Bengaluru Administration Act, 2024 through a government notification issued on September 2 this year. They are Central Corporation, East Corporation, West Corporation, North Corporation and South Corporation. With this restructuring, BBMP has ceased to exist. All its assets, liabilities, officers and staff have been transferred to the GBA, which will now oversee the five corporations, along with Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) and Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE).

Interim measure

For the financial year 2025-26, BBMP's property tax collection of about ₹300 crore has been kept in a Union Bank account. From this reserve, ₹25 crore each is being released to the five corporations as an interim measure. The corporations have already opened their individual bank accounts, but until tax revenues start flowing directly, the State government will release funds from the BBMP's account.

In future, when the remaining BBMP grants are distributed among the corporations, the government may adjust this advance amount, the order stated.

The government has made it clear that the grant must be spent only as per rules and with the approval of the respective administrative officers.

It also stated that these grants will be adjusted during future distribution of BBMP funds, and that expenditure should comply with the Karnataka Economic Code, 1958 and all other existing financial laws.

The order was passed under various sections of the Greater Bengaluru Administration Act, 2024. These sections allow the government to take over all assets and liabilities of BBMP and other local authorities when the final notification is issued. It allows the government to temporarily manage these assets and make financial arrangements until the new corporations are fully functional.

GBA commissioners crack down on civic neglect

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao directed the immediate disposal of legacy waste at the Karnataka Compost Development Corporation (KCDC) unit in Bommanahalli on Wednesday.

The plant has a capacity of 300 MT per day but currently processes only 200 MT. Mr. Rao instructed that the unit operate at full capacity, with stored waste reprocessed into granular fertilizer for farmers. He also said that the decades-old backlog of about 60,000 tonnes of waste stored at the unit must be cleared without delay and daily waste handled regularly.

Central Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan warned that officials failing to discharge their duties effectively will face suspension. During the inspection, dry waste from a segregation centre was found dumped on the roadside, causing foul odour and blocking traffic. Mr. Cholan instructed that segregation be shifted to the adjoining vacant land with assistance from BSWML. The commissioner asked BSWML and ward AMC teams to clean the area and file an FIR under the Disaster Management Act against offenders.

In Yelahanka division, North City Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar and MLA S.R. Vishwanath inspected key projects and directed contractors to stick to deadlines. At Allalasandra Lake, officials were told to complete fencing, clean silt traps, and build additional toilets. The Yelahanka flyover project must be finished within the stipulated time with no further extensions. On NITTE College Road, road widening will be prioritised to ease traffic, Mr. Kumar said.

Durga Puja celebrations from Sept. 27 to Oct. 2

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The North Bangalore Cultural Samithi (NBCS) will host its 48th annual Durga Puja celebrations from September 27 to October 2, at Hindu Sadara Kshemabhivruddhi Sangh, Mahalakshmipuram.

For detailed schedules and activity updates, participants can visit the official website of the NBCS.

'Scrutinise property tax declarations of large multi-storey buildings'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru South Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh on Wednesday directed officials to scrutinise property tax declarations of large multi-storey buildings and revise them wherever discrepancies are found.

He said scientific measurement through surveys should be carried out in such cases, and action must be taken if underpayment of tax is detected.

Sub-divisional officers in areas with the highest pending dues have been asked to be proactive in collections. Mr. Ramesh instructed officials to compile details of property tax-related court cases so that early settlements can be pursued.

The commissioner directed that all newly occupied buildings, especially residential complexes that have obtained possession certificates in the last five years, be brought under the tax net, with every flat accounted for.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: L7255654A
Dated : 03-09-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the Supply of following items.
Description in brief : Spare Power Pack, LUKAS power unit Model No P 630 SG suitable for High capacity HRD (Cold Cutting Equipments) supplied for various ART/ARMV/SPARMV of Hubballi Division. **(Tender No. L7255654A) (Qty : 07 Numbers)**
Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs on 23-09-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager/O Hubballi
PUB/473/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr.Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, North Western Railway, Bikaner for & on behalf of the president of India, invites E-tender for the following work. **1. Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website No : http://www.ireps.gov.in 2. Date & time of closing of e-tender: 09.10.2025** up to 15.00 hrs. **3. Date & time of opening of e-tender:** After 15.00 hrs. on **09.10.2025 Tender Notice No.** : 18-TRD-BKN-E-Tender-25-26 **Name of work:** Implementation of Cyber security measures in existing SCADA (Supervisory control and data acquisition) system of M/S Synergy systems and Solutions for 25Kv single phase 50 hz AC traction power supply over Bikaner division. **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.)** : Rs. 50309330/- **EMD/SD (Rs.)** : Rs. 401600.00
1180-DR/25
Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum 4 for E-Tender Notice No. Auto_Sig_ YPR-ASK Dated : 08.08.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Corrigendum 4, NIT	Rs. 160,89,45,177.79

Header Tender Existing Closing date and Time : 15/09/2025 15:00 Hrs is hereby modified as 30/09/2025 11:00 Hrs for Provision of Automatic Signalling between Yesvantpur - Arsikere Section of Bengaluru and Mysuru Divisions. (Details already uploaded in website).
Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 30-09-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
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75 years of Vishnuvardhan: Dream roles and unfulfilled projects

Vivek M.V.
BENGALURU

Vishnuvardhan, whose 75th birth anniversary falls on Thursday, is celebrated as the "Sahasa Simha" (brave lion) of the Kannada film industry by his fans. The monicker, however, does not quite capture the wide range of roles he played.

His last few movies, before his death in 2009, prove that his talent was not on the wane. However, directors with a lack of imagination wrote for him the typical kind-hearted, sacrificial-saviour type of roles for him.

Veteran stars such as Mammootty and Mohanlal in Malayalam, Rajinikanth in Tamil, and Amitabh Bachchan in Hindi have dared to experiment in the fag end of their careers. Likewise, ardent fans of Vishnuvardhan, who are fighting to establish a memorial for their favourite star in Bengaluru, would have loved to see him in never-before-seen characters.

Vishnuvardhan

Vision of new-gen

Kannada new-gen filmmakers say imagining Vishnuvardhan in unique roles is irresistible and exciting. Shashank Soghal, who made the entertaining college drama *Daredful Musthafa* (2023), would have loved to have cast him as the protagonist who celebrates the legacy of Chitradurga. His concept feels like a hat-tip to Vishnuvardhan's iconic 1972 *Naagarahaavu*.

"I would have wanted to adapt the novel *Durgaastamana* by TaRaSu with Vishu sir as the lead. His love for Mysuru and Chitradurga is well-known. He also starred in several literary adaptations," Shashank told *The Hindu*. "Vishnu sir looked very striking even in his late 50s, especially in Nagathihalli Chandrashekar's *Maathaad Maathadu Mallige* (2007). He would have made for a great, stylish yet complex antagonist.

Vishnuvardhan was known for portraying believable vulnerability through. A case in point is his iconic *Bandhana* (1984). It is a film that makes filmmaker Jaishankar Aryar think of an age-defying love story starring Vishnuvardhan. "I would have written a love story with two old people. Imagine living 70 years, carrying different kinds of experiences and learnings, and then falling in love. I feel Vishnuvardhan sir would have brought out the internal conflicts and the nuanced performance required for such a character," said Jaishankar, who made the critically acclaimed and festival hit *Shivamma* (2024).

In web series?

Natesh Hegde, director behind internationally-acclaimed films such as *Pedro* and *Vagachipani,* said Dr Rajkumar and Vishnuvardhan are beyond a particular on-screen image. "*Bhootayyana Maga Ayyu* (1974), *Bandhana* (1984), and *Karna* (1986) are films that prove that Vishnuvardhan was more than your usual commercial star," said Natesh, adding that he misses seeing the actor in the web-series space. "He would have been brilliant as this cop with grey shades in police-procedurals, something on the lines of *Paatal Lok* (2020) and *Khorra* (2023)," he said.

In the era of pan-Indian films, big stars of all languages are collaborating with each other, increasing their visibility beyond their respective home industries. "Had *Marudhanayagam* seen the light of day, the world would have celebrated Vishnuvardhan sir's calibre," he said about the shelved ambitious project of Kamal Haasan in which the Kannada star was cast in a prominent role.

Beyond one image

Director Dinesh Baboo, a regular collaborator with Vishnuvardhan, said the actor was a "star who never insisted on having a specific image." "He played an ordinary father in *Laali* (1997), a retired army man in *Nishabdha,* and a loyal husband in the comedy drama *Hendthige-helbedi* (1989). These films show the acting range of Vishnuvardhan. Today, I am filming the biopic of Kempegowda, and I miss him dearly. He would have been perfect as Krishnadevaraya. He would have looked majestic in a royal outfit," said Dinesh Baboo about exploring a strong historical role with Vishnuvardhan, who was gifted with a strong dialogue delivery and a solid baritone.

In gangster drama?

Senior members in the industry call him a great actor who could entertain people of all generations. "I miss him a lot," said friend and filmmaker Rajendra Singh Babu, who helmed classics such as *Bandhana* and *Muthina Haara* (1990) with the actor.

"Vishnu in a *Godfather*-like gangster drama would have been a great try. Like Marlon Brando, he would have outshone the rest of the star-studded cast," felt Babu. More than a decade since his demise, Kannada cinema is reeling from the effects of unfulfilled roles and dream projects involving one of the fine actors of Sandalwood.

Crosstalk: waning immunity against Japanese encephalitis worsens dengue

The Japanese encephalitis virus and dengue virus belong to the same genus; previous research had hinted at interactions between JEV immunity and dengue outcomes; to understand more, a new study examined three large dengue outbreaks in Dharan, Nepal, between 2019 and 2023

Puneet Kumar
Vipin M. Vashishtha

An Aedes mosquito and a colourised transmission electron micrograph of dengue virus particles (yellow). Aedes mosquitoes are known to transmit the dengue virus. CDC, NIAID

Mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue fever are an increasing threat to global health. Rapid urbanisation and climate change have created ideal conditions for mosquitoes to breed – while expanding global travel has accelerated the spread of these infections to new regions and populations.

A new study published last week has now added an unexpected twist to this story. Researchers have found that waning immunity against infections of the Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) can predispose individuals to more severe dengue. The finding highlights the complex interplay between related viruses and suggests a potential strategy to beat severe dengue through timely booster doses of the JE vaccine.

Both Japanese encephalitis virus and dengue virus belong to the same genus, *Orthoflavivirus*. Previous research had hinted at interactions between JEV immunity and dengue outcomes. To understand more, the present study, involving researchers from Singapore, Nepal, and the U.S., examined three large dengue outbreaks in Dharan in Nepal between 2019 and 2023.

Nepal provided a unique setting: the country has high population immunity against JE due to a successful vaccination programme launched in 2006 – yet until recently, it had very limited exposure to dengue. This made it possible to study how JEV immunity alone might influence dengue outcomes. Prior exposure to dengue itself is known to increase the risk of severe disease through antibody-dependent enhancement: where antibodies from a first infection facilitate viral entry during subsequent infections.

But in Nepal's largely dengue-naïve population, the impact of JEV immunity could be specifically isolated.

Striking results

For the study, the research team recruited dengue patients aged 15 to 65 years early in their illness, i.e. within three days of fever onset, confirmed by rapid diagnostic tests (NS1 or DENV IgM). The study spanned five years and included three major dengue outbreaks, in 2019, 2022, and 2023. In total, 546 patients were enrolled and their blood samples were tested for viral serotypes, immune markers, and a biomarker called chymase. Chymase is an enzyme released by mast cells during inflammation, and it has been consistently validated in earlier studies as a marker of severe dengue. Its levels have been found to be elevated during both the acute and defervescence phases of the illness.

The findings, published in *Science Translational Medicine* on September 3, were striking.

Approximately 61% of patients had pre-existing antibodies that neutralised JEV, reflecting Nepal's relatively high level of immunity against JEV. Individuals with confirmed JEV immunity showed significantly higher concentrations of chymase compared to JEV-naïve patients.

Further analysis revealed that this effect was primarily associated with mid-range – not too low, not too high – anti-JEV antibody titres of 1:160. Patients with these titres had significantly higher chymase levels compared to those with titres of 1:10 or 1:40. Notably, this correlation was not observed when anti-JEV ELISA titres were used, possibly reflecting cross-reactivity between DENV-specific antibodies and JEV in ELISA-based assays.

The association between mid-range JEV neutralising antibody titres and severe dengue was also reflected in clinical outcomes. The fraction of patients diagnosed with either dengue fever with warning signs or severe dengue, according to the WHO classification, was significantly higher among those with titres of 1:160 compared to patients without JEV immunity.

These individuals had a 3x higher risk of developing dengue fever with warning signs. Importantly, most participants were experiencing primary dengue infections, with only 7-10% showing evidence of prior exposure.

These findings isolated the role of JEV immunity in shaping disease outcomes. Even after excluding cases of secondary dengue, the results remained unchanged, strongly supporting the conclusion that JEV immunity alone is sufficient to modulate dengue severity, independent of prior DENV exposure.

Echoes from other flaviviruses

These findings echo earlier observations in studies of Zika and dengue viruses, where moderate antibody levels sometimes enhanced the viral infection of immune cells and worsened disease – while very high titres were protective. This is to say, as antibody levels wane over time, populations may enter a vulnerable "middle zone" in which immunity is insufficient to protect but strong enough to enhance disease.

Rising temperatures and extended monsoons have caused the epidemiology of dengue fever to change rapidly, with increasingly larger outbreaks in areas where there used to be only sporadic cases. Such regions include India, which is also facing similar levels of climate change

The implications are significant for Asia, where JEV vaccination is common and dengue is spreading, and for the complex and connected nature of public health in a globalised world.

Specifically, the study showed that rising temperature and extended monsoons have caused the epidemiology of dengue fever to change rapidly, with increasingly bigger outbreaks in areas where there used to be only sporadic cases. Such regions include India, which is also facing similar kinds and levels of climate change. Thus, the authors suggest, the country needs to be ready with appropriate strategies to deal with the new challenges that will sprout as a result.

Second, while the study clearly showed that moderate titres of neutralising antibodies against JEV can worsen outcomes with dengue fever, it does not undermine the importance of JE vaccination *per se*. Such vaccination has successfully lowered the incidence of JE in the population.

The findings of previous studies have shown that the titres of neutralising antibodies against JEV wane after a few years of vaccination. After five years, for example, only around 63% of vaccinated individuals still have neutralising antibodies against JEV. Thus, the new study strongly suggests the need for suitably timed JE vaccine boosters, which could serve the dual purpose of maintaining durable immunity against JE for longer periods and protecting the population against the risk of dengue fever with warning signs and severe dengue (due to waning titres of anti-JEV antibodies).

Third, the study reinforces the importance of chymase as a biomarker of dengue fever with warning signs and severe dengue, making it a convenient tool for physicians handling the uncertain trajectories of dengue fever.

Viruses respect no borders. The new study provides critical insights into how waning immunity against one flavivirus can worsen outcomes of another. Strategically timed JE boosters could be a valuable tool not just in sustaining protection against encephalitis but also in mitigating the severity of dengue – a disease whose burden is rising sharply across Asia.

Such remarkable work ultimately underscores the importance of integrated, forward-looking approaches in infectious disease control, with insights that could save countless lives.

(Puneet Kumar is a clinician, Kumar Child Clinic, New Delhi. kumarchildclinic@gmail.com

Vipin M. Vashishtha is director and paediatrician, Mangla Hospital and Research Center, Bijnor. vipinipsita@gmail.com)

A Pollock art work on display in Atlanta. AP

Cracking of the blues mystery in Pollock painting reveals new trick

Vasudevan Mukunth

Jackson Pollock's Number 1A, 1948 is one of the most famous examples of action painting, where paint is dripped, splashed, and layered onto a surface. While art historians and scientists had years ago identified the reds and the yellows in this canvas to be cadmium pigments, the provenance of the striking blue that threaded through the work remained unclear. This lacuna was not just a matter of curiosity. Knowing exactly which pigments Pollock used could help authenticate his paintings and help preserve them. The pigment has unusual properties. Once popular in the mid-20th century but later banned for its toxicity, it stood out because of its pure blue hue and chemical stability.

Now, scholars from the U.S., including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, have combined chemistry, physics, and art conservation in a September 15 paper in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* to confirm that the blue is due to a well-known, and toxic, pigment called manganese blue – and in the process also found a new way for scientists to 'adjust' the colours of inorganic pigments. The team used resonance Raman spectroscopy, which measured the vibrations of molecules when light excited them to identify the pigment, and magnetic circular dichroism spectroscopy to explore how the pigment created its blue colour.

Scholars combined chemistry, physics, and art conservation to confirm that the blue is due to a toxic pigment called manganese blue. They also found a new way to adjust the colours of inorganic pigments

By combining these approaches, the researchers could map the small electronic transitions inside the pigment – the jumps of electrons between energy levels – that determined which colours of light were absorbed and which were reflected. The team also tested the blue passages in Number 1A, 1948 directly with Raman spectroscopy to settle once and for all what Pollock had put on his canvas. The spectroscopic evidence confirmed that the blue pigment in Pollock's painting was manganese blue. At the molecular level, the colour was found to come from charge-transfer bands: when electrons moved from oxygen atoms to the manganese atom, light of certain energies was absorbed. Normally, such transitions produce muddier colours. But here, the exchange of electrons in certain orbitals absorbed, and thus filtered out, green and violet light while letting blue light through.

This result is significant for many reasons. In art, confirming manganese blue in Number 1A, 1948 will help conservators plan restoration work and give scholars more evidence of Pollock's materials and choices. It could also open the possibility of identifying the same pigment in other works by Pollock and his contemporaries, like Willem de Kooning, who was also said to favour it. For scientists, the researchers wrote, the study shows that inorganic pigments can be tuned by adjusting the arrangement of other atoms around a metal atom, thus altering its electrons' energy levels. This could inspire the design of new pigments or optical materials, perhaps even for use in technologies like lasers.

Finally, according to the paper, the findings offer a reminder that art and science aren't separate worlds. A question born in front of a canvas – "what blue is this?" – led to deeper insights into how matter and light interact, showing how creativity and chemistry work together.

mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

When sound gets on the move

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1
Grains of sand on a vibrating plate often shift into precise, geometric shapes that depend on the vibrations. These patterns also change when the frequency changes. What name is given to this visualisation of sound and vibration?

QUESTION 2
An aeroplane traveling faster than sound forces pressure waves to accumulate in front of it. When the vehicle starts to move faster than the speed of sound in that medium, a sudden explosive noise is heard. What is this dramatic event called?

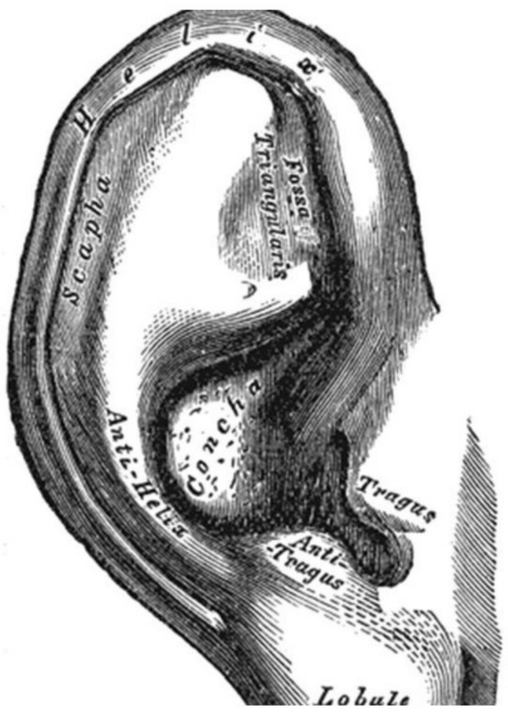
QUESTION 3
Vibrations in a guitar string or a vibrating column of air inside a pipe can sometimes 'lock' themselves into a stable pattern. As a result, certain points in the string or column stay still while others vibrate vigorously, creating nodes and antinodes. What are such waves called?

QUESTION 4
When a swing is pushed at its natural frequency, it soars higher with little effort. If you push it at the wrong time, even a strong push may not lead to a big change in its motion. Bridges and glass objects have been known to shatter when they're perturbed at their natural frequencies. Name the phenomenon that causes vibrations to amplify when stimulated at the natural frequency.

QUESTION 5
Some artificial materials can guide or block sound in ways that nature can't. These materials can even 'cloak' objects such that they don't emit or reflect any sound. What are such advanced materials called? Hint: Their name means "subsequent to" or "after" materials.

Answers to September 16 quiz:
1. Material dropped into Hurricane Esther's eyewall – **Ans: Silver iodide**
2. Process that silver iodide induces in clouds – **Ans: Heterogenous nucleation**
3. Country that objected to cloud-seeding typhoons – **Ans: China**
4. Hurricane whose properties rejected Project Stormfury – **Ans: Allen**
5. Leader who alleged Stormfury was a US attempt to weaponise storms – **Ans: Fidel Castro**

Visual: **Hurricane Nine (King)**
First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Harilakshmi M. | Amit Yadav | Anmol Agrawal | Tamal Biswas



Visual: What's the name for the part of the human ear visible outside the head? It's called the pinna in non-human animals. PUBLIC DOMAIN

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Car plunges into cellar pit at Gandhi Bazaar, four injured

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A car plunged into a 12-feet-deep cellar pit which was reportedly dug illegally at Gandhi Bazaar in Bengaluru around 12 p.m. on Wednesday, leaving four people injured.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Guruprasad Rotti, Secretary of the Heritage Basavanagudi Residence Welfare Forum, said, "The construction was taken up without a sanctioned plan." The injured persons were rushed to a nearby hospital and are reported to be out of danger.

The Basavanagudi police have registered a case against the owner of the property charging him for endangering human lives.

Power shutdown

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be no power supply on September 19, 20, and 21 to facilitate the stringing of HTLS conductor on the single-circuit Sarjapur-Attibele 66 kV line, according to a BESCOM release.

Areas
The affected areas are: 66/11 kV Attibele: Yadavanahalli, Ichanguru, Vaddarapalya, Attibele Industrial Area, Balagaranahalli, Manchanahalli, Attibele Town, Mayasandra, Dasanapura, Balluru, Kamblipura, Chikkanahalli, Indlabele, Harohalli.

66/11 kV Anekal: Anekal Town, Kavaluhosahalli, Gowrenahalli, Haldenahalli, Hompalagatta, Choodenahalli, Honnakalashapura, Karpuru, Byagadadenhalli, Kada Agrahara, Chikkahagde, Doddahagade.

66/11 kV Samanduru: Samanduru, Rachamanahalli, Guddnahalli, Aravantigepura, P. Gollahalli, Telagarahalli, Vanakanahalli.

'Lack of effective control on maintenance activities led to AI flight's emergency landing'

Probe report states that the DGCA headquarters may take appropriate action against Air India for failing to ensure the satisfactory completion of scheduled tasks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Flight AI-807 with 177 people on board, including crew, made an emergency landing at the Delhi airport on May 17. However, no injuries were reported. PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONALPURPOSE ONLY

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), probing an incident involving a Bengaluru-bound Air India flight making an emergency landing at the Delhi airport in May 2024, due to a fire warning from its Auxiliary Power Unit (APU), has blamed Air India's Continuing Airworthiness Management Organisation (CAMO) for a lack of effective control over maintenance activities.

On May 17, flight AI-807 with 177 people on board, including crew, made an emergency landing at the Delhi airport. However, no injuries were reported.

The investigation report on the incident said that the most probable cause of the incident was due to, "APU hot air leaks from load control valve & T Duct - Scroll flange in combination with the ingestion of APU exhaust gases into the APU compartment, which would have increased the overall temperature over the triggering limits of the APU Fire ECAM (Electronic Centralised Aircraft Monitor) alert, causing the APU Fire indication."

It further stated that the lack of effective control of M/s Air India CAMO on the maintenance activities being performed on the APU contributed to the incident.

The report said that the CAMO of Air India failed to effectively monitor and ensure that the actual cause of the defect was identified through the maintenance performed.

"There were significant gaps in the oversight on the part of the airline CAMO over the maintenance of its aircraft by the contracted Aircraft Maintenance Organisation, Air India Engineering Services Ltd. (AIESL), wherein the oil uplift, oil consumption of the on-wing APU were neither known to the airline CAMO nor were they identified prior to the incident," the report said.

"It is inferred that M/s Air India CAMO had no records of the exhaust muffler and bellows-related inspection, as a reply was not submitted even after several reminders," it added.

Recommendations
Regarding safety recommendations, the report stated that the DGCA headquarters may take appropriate action against M/S Air India for failing to ensure the satisfactory completion of scheduled tasks and for not monitoring the oil uplift/ oil consumption data of the APU.

"M/s Air India to monitor APU Oil consumption, uplift and condition of the APU on all its A320 family fleet and ensure oil over servicing is avoided," it said.

Northeast monsoon to keep date after October 15: IMD

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The northeast monsoon season is between October and December and brings rain primarily to the south Indian States. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

As the southwest monsoon retracts, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bengaluru, said that the northeast monsoon is expected to keep its normal date after October 15.

IMD, Bengaluru, director C.S. Patil said the northeast monsoon, like the southwest monsoon, is expected to be normal this year.

"South Interior Karnataka will receive heavy rains, while North Interior Karnataka and Coastal Karnataka will not," he said.

The northeast monsoon season is between October and December and brings rain primarily to the southern Indian States, including parts of Karnataka.

The southwest monsoon this year arrived earlier than usual. Karnataka, during this crucial monsoon season, received 786 mm rainfall as against a normal of 675.6 mm from June 1 to September 1, but some districts reported deficient rainfall. According to IMD's seasonal cumulative rainfall data, there was a departure of 16% rain during this period.

Mr. Patil, however, said rain is expected for the next few days in parts of Karnataka. In Bengaluru, while the maximum temperature remained normal at 26.8 degrees Celsius, the minimum temperature on Wednesday saw a 1.1 degree Celsius increase at 21.1 degrees Celsius. The forecast for the next few days for the city is expected to be generally cloudy with light rain.

New study finds how calcium, pH regulate ovarian cancer spheroids

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), in a collaborative study, have found that two simple environmental factors – calcium and pH – dictate whether the cancer spheroids hold together, fall apart, or even rebuild themselves from scratch.

Floating cluster of cells
When ovarian cancer spreads, it often does so via floating clusters of cells - called spheroids - that drift through the abdominal cavity.

"These spheroids are quite sophisticated – some look like solid, misshapen masses (moruloids), while others resemble smooth, mulberry-like hollow structures (blastuloids). Why and how these structures emerge, and whether they affect how the cancer progresses has been under speculation for years," NCBS said.

When ovarian cancer spreads, it often does so via spheroids that drift through the abdominal cavity. GETTY IMAGES

Dr. Tapomoy Bhattacharjee's lab at the NCBS in collaboration with Dr. Ramray Bhat's lab at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), conducted this interdisciplinary work published in the scientific journal *Small*.

Led by Sreepadmanabh M., a graduate student at the Bhattacharjee lab, the team first investigated hollow blastuloids, which periodically undergo dramatic volume fluctuations.

"Every few hours, their central cavity pulses, collapses dramatically, and then steadily recovers – somewhat like a slowed-down heartbeat. Remarkably, despite these catastrophic fluctuations, the overall blastuloid, comprising hundreds of tightly organised cells, eventually recovers its overall shape. The secret to this recovery lies in the E-cadherin junctions, the biological mortar that binds cells together, whose stability depends on calcium," NCBS said.

By tweaking calcium levels, the researchers found they could flip the spheroids between completely different states.

A sudden removal of calcium caused blastuloids to collapse into solid, moruloid-like masses within minutes. But when calcium was restored, the hollow structure reappeared far quicker than it had formed in the first place. Even when spheroids were completely disassembled into single cells, they rapidly reassembled into complex hollow forms in just two days – a feat that normally takes more than a week. "Simply put, once the cells have formed a blastuloid, the next time around they remember how to rebuild it much faster," said Sreepadmanabh.

Direct clinical connection
Going beyond this, the team found that another commonplace entity – pH, a measure of how acidic or alkaline the environment becomes – proves equally influential. This has a direct clinical connection because cancer spheroids are often found in acidic ascitic fluid inside the abdomen. The researchers found that when exposed to acidic pH (-6), blastuloids paused their pulsations, leaving their hollow cavity intact.

"Contrastingly, alkaline conditions (pH ~8.5) collapsed them into solid masses- which again was completely reversible upon restoring pH to normal levels," NCBS said.

Engineers' Day celebrated at M.S. Ramaiah varsity

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M.S. Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS) celebrated Engineers' Day 2025 on Monday, paying tribute to Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya and highlighting the theme of engineering excellence, innovation, and nation-building.

Ganapathy Venugopal, co-founder and CEO of Axilor Ventures, as the chief guest, urged young engineers to embrace innovation, risk-taking, and entrepreneurship to shape India's future.

The Engineers day celebration featured the Faculty Awards and Recognitions 2025, honouring distinguished contributions of faculty and staff.

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https://www.cci.gov.in/images/caseorders/en/1652509382.pdf.

The white labelling product manufacturing services being offered by SEIPL are subject to the terms and conditions as set out in the CCI Order, including the following:

1. The white labelling product manufacturing service is being offered by SEIPL only for the existing product range, owned and manufactured at L&T plants, of the five products of L&T (Air Circuit Breakers (**"ACB"**), Moulded Case Circuit Breakers (**"MCCB"**), Overload Relays, Contactors and Switch Disconnector Fuse (**"SDF"**), collectively **"Five Products"**). SEIPL has since transitioned the Five Products of L&T into a new brand, "Lauritz Knudsen Electrical & Automation" (**"L&K"**) effective 29 May 2024.

2. The white labelling services for the Five Products can be availed for the remaining period of the white labelling product manufacturing services offering ending as on **28 September 2026** for sale solely in the Indian market.

3. The pricing and allocation of quantity for the white labelling contract will be governed by the CCI Order and monitored by the Monitoring Agency – Moore Singhi Advisors LLP (paresh.c@moore-singhi.in and rajeshmaliwal@singhico.com) appointed by the CCI.

4. It is clarified that any third-party LV switchgear manufacturer availing of the white labelling services being offered by SEIPL under the CCI Order, by participating in the present (sixth) round of the expression of interest for the white labelling services, will only be able to avail of white labelling services (if eligible) for a period of approximately 1 year (till 28 September 2026 (i.e., till the expiry of the white labelling remedy period)).

5. Any such eligible third-party LV switchgear manufacturer availing the white labelling services from SEIPL pursuant to this present (sixth) round of the expression of interest will not be eligible for the non-transferable, non-sub licensable, non-exclusive technology license (**"NETL"**) (as envisaged under the CCI Order), since no third-party LV switchgear manufacturer will be able to have a *"white label offtake for at least **3 continuous years** of the product for which it seeks the technology license"*, which is a prerequisite for being eligible to avail of the NETL.

Interested LV switchgear manufacturers are requested to respond fully and finally to this sixth round of invitation for EOI by submitting their details at: : https://www.se.com/in/en/about-us/whitelabelling/whitelabelling-registration.jsp by 18th November 2025 i.e., 2 months from date of publication of this EOI.

SEIPL will also conduct a pre-bid meeting on 17th October 2025, to provide clarifications in relation to this EOI. Interested parties to contact us whitelabel.support@se.com, for further details on the pre-bid meeting.

Specific product ranges available for white labelling will be shared with interested parties post registration at the link set out above.

For further details, please contact us at: *whitelabel.support@se.com.*

Cauvery water supply resumes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) resumed Cauvery water supply to city households on Wednesday morning after completing maintenance works.

Earlier, the BWSSB had announced that the city would face disruptions in Cauvery water supply from September 15 to 17 due to scheduled emergency maintenance of pumping stations under the Cauvery Water Supply Project.

"We completed the work a day ahead of schedule by working overnight to ensure uninterrupted Cauvery water supply. Supply has resumed from September 17 morning," the BWSSB stated.

According to the BWSSB, the maintenance work was carried out to ensure the smooth functioning and sustained operations of pumping stations and major pipelines under the Cauvery Water Supply Project, enabling uninterrupted drinking water supply to Greater Bengaluru in the long run.

Case registered after HC receives fresh bomb threat e-mail

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Division cybercrime police have registered an FIR against an unknown person after the Karnataka High Court received a hoax email about explosives planted on its premises on Monday. This is the fourth such hoax e-mail received on the official email ID of the High Court since June this year.

'Hoax'
The High Court security, along with the jurisdictional Vidhana Soudha police and Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS), carried out the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) before declaring it as hoax.

Based on the complaint by M. Rajeshwari, joint registrar, the police have booked an FIR under the IT Act and Sections 351 and 353 of the BNS.

Previously, the registrar general's email ID received e-mails on June 9, June 24 and July 25.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, SEP. 18	
RISE	06:09 SET 18:18
RISE	03:01 SET 16:04
FRIDAY, SEP. 19	
RISE	06:09 SET 18:18
RISE	03:55 SET 16:46
SATURDAY, SEP. 20	
RISE	06:09 SET 18:17
RISE	04:46 SET 17:24

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	23
Mysuru	31	20
Bengaluru	27	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Lawsuit filed by Zambian farmers against mining firms

80 in $ billion. Almost 200 people affected by a major toxic spill at a northern Zambian mine have filed an $80-billion lawsuit against the Chinese firm that owns the mine. Millions of litres of acidic waste were released into streams, rivers, and fields in February. AFP

Approved BC quota in upcoming Telangana local body polls

42 in per cent. Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy spoke on the occasion of Hyderabad State's merger with the Indian Union — "*Praja Palana Dinostavam*". He said that by extending reservations, 23,973 people from Backward Communities will get political representation. PTI

Value of global cocoa supply at risk from climate and disease

1.5 In million tons. The world could lose up to one-third of its cocoa supply if urgent action is not taken against climate change and crop disease, an industry executive warned. West Africa, which produces 60% of the world's cocoa, may see losses of 500,000 tons to disease alone. REUTERS

Illegal cigarette consignment seized in Delhi

12.5 In lakh ₹. The crime branch arrested two men in Delhi with a consignment of illegal cigarettes. Both accused were caught in the Farash Khana area with 3,215 packets containing 64,300 sticks of various brands, including high-end foreign ones. PTI

Loss to mineral-rich States if export duty is imposed

16,000 in ₹. Goa, Odisha, Karnataka will incur a loss of over ₹16,000 crore, and the mining industry will become unviable if a 30% export duty is imposed, miners' body FIMI has cautioned. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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How does SC's order affect Waqf law?

What is the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025? On what grounds was the law challenged? Which provisions did the court uphold, and on which did it impose a stay? What are the broader implications for minority rights?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:
The Supreme Court, on September 15, declined to suspend the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, in its entirety, but stayed the operation of certain contentious provisions pending further judicial scrutiny. The interim order, delivered by a Bench led by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justice A.G. Masih, put on hold the enforcement of provisions that empowered District Collectors to unilaterally decide whether a property claimed as waqf belonged to the government, and the clause stipulating that only a lawful property owner who has been practising Islam for at least five years could create waqf through a formal deed. It also capped the number of non-Muslims who may be appointed to the Central Waqf Council and State Waqf Boards.

Legal watch: Earlier this year, multiple petitioners moved the Supreme Court challenging the law on the ground that it infringed upon the Muslim community's fundamental right to manage its own religious affairs under Article 26 of the Constitution. PTI

THE GIST

- The Supreme Court, on September 15, stayed certain contentious provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, including the five-year practising Islam requirement, powers of District Collectors to decide waqf property ownership, and limits on non-Muslim representation in Waqf boards.
- Provisions that remain in force include the derecognition of 'waqf by user' properties, the requirement to register waqf properties on a central digital portal, and the application of the Limitation Act to waqf lands.
- The order aims to protect property rights and minority protections, ensure judicial oversight of disputes, and prevent executive overreach, while the final judgment on the 2025 Act is still pending.

What did the challenge entail?
Waqf, under Islamic law, denotes a charitable endowment through which property is dedicated for religious or philanthropic purposes. The 2025 law, notified in April as an amendment to the Waqf Act of 1995 (1995 Act), has been projected by the government as a comprehensive reform aimed at streamlining the administration of these properties. However, critics have described it as an attempt to extend State control over religious institutions.

Earlier this year, multiple petitioners moved the Supreme Court challenging the law on the ground that it infringed upon the Muslim community's fundamental right to manage its own religious affairs under Article 26 of the Constitution. The petitioners included leaders across the political spectrum, such as AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, and RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha, alongside parties like the YSR Congress and the Communist Party of India. They argued that the stipulation requiring an individual to be a practising Muslim for at least five years before creating a waqf was arbitrary and curtailed religious freedoms. They also opposed vesting District Collectors with the authority to decide ownership disputes, maintaining that such questions fall within the exclusive domain of civil courts and tribunals. Another ground of challenge was the decision to allow non-Muslims on Waqf boards and councils, which, according to the petitioners, contravened the minority community's right under Article 30 to manage its own institutions.

Defending the law, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that the amendments were designed to promote transparency and improve accountability in the management of waqf properties. He argued that establishing a system of centralised registration of properties and vesting preliminary inquiry powers in District Collectors would reduce litigation and ease the load on tribunals. The government also maintained that including non-Muslim members was consistent with principles of inclusivity and oversight, while the five-year practice requirement was aimed at preventing opportunistic claims of conversion.

What are the provisions that have been stayed?
In its 128-page order, the court upheld the presumption of constitutionality of the legislation but cautioned that enforcing it in full, without safeguards, could have "serious consequences" for property rights and weaken minority protections. It therefore stayed certain contentious provisions, clarifying that these were only interim directions pending final adjudication of the constitutional challenge.

The court suspended Section 3C of the amended law, which authorised District Collectors to inquire into whether property claimed as waqf was in fact government land and to alter revenue records accordingly. It also struck down the clause that automatically divested property of its waqf status once an inquiry commenced, calling it "*prima facie* arbitrary" and holding that questions of title must be decided by judicial or quasi-judicial bodies. To balance interests, the court clarified that waqf properties will not be dispossessed during the pendency of proceedings, but *mutawallis* or custodians are barred from creating third-party rights in the disputed properties until the matter is finally decided by Waqf tribunals or High Courts.

The court further stressed that land belonging to Scheduled Tribes or notified as protected monuments under central or State laws cannot be declared waqf, citing constitutional safeguards for tribals and statutory protections for heritage sites. It also noted that the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, allows citizens to continue their customary religious practices even within areas notified as protected monuments.

The 2025 Act amended the definition of 'waqf' to restrict its creation to a "person showing or demonstrating that he is practising Islam for at least five years." The petitioners challenged this stipulation as arbitrary and discriminatory, arguing that it effectively empowered executive officials to adjudicate the religiosity of citizens. The Bench, however, declined to strike down the provision, holding that it was justified as a measure to prevent the potential misuse of waqf properties. "The possibility of any person not belonging to the Muslim community converting to the Islamic religion only to take benefit of the protection of the Waqf Act to defeat creditors and evade the law under the cloak of a plausible dedication cannot be ruled out," it observed.

At the same time, the court acknowledged that no procedure currently exists to verify whether a person has been practising Islam for five years. It therefore suspended the operation of the provision until the Centre frames rules under the Act, clarifying that the requirement would take effect only once such a mechanism is in place. The Bench also upheld the related requirement that only property owned by the person creating the waqf may be dedicated, noting that both classical Islamic jurisprudence and principles of charity require a person to donate their own property, not that of others.

The petitioners strongly opposed the 2025 law's provisions permitting non-Muslims to serve on Waqf boards and the Central Waqf Council, arguing that it undermined the community's constitutional right to manage its own religious affairs. Addressing these concerns, the court said that such participation must be limited. It directed that the Central Waqf Council, a 22-member national advisory body under the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs, shall not include more than four non-Muslim members. State Waqf boards, which have 11 members, were similarly capped at three non-Muslim members.

The court also noted that the amended law removes the requirement that the Chief Executive Officer of a Waqf board should be a Muslim. Accordingly, it is suggested that the post should preferably be held by a member of the community, given the religious character of Waqf institutions.

What are the provisions that will continue to operate?
The court allowed certain key provisions to remain in force, relying on the government's argument that they were necessary to curb mismanagement and misuse of Waqf endowments.

The petitioners contested the removal of the long-standing doctrine of "waqf by user," under which land employed for Muslim religious or charitable purposes over a sustained period could be deemed waqf even without formal registration. They contended that abolishing this principle struck at the very core of waqf jurisprudence.

However, the court declined to suspend the provision's prospective operation, observing that the doctrine had frequently been exploited to claim extensive tracts of government land as waqf property. "... We are also of the view that if the legislature, in 2025, finds that on account of the concept of 'waqf by user', huge government properties have been encroached upon and to stop the said menace, it takes steps for deletion of the said provision, the said amendment, *prima facie*, cannot be said to be arbitrary", it said. The judges also recalled a 2022 ruling in which the Supreme Court had struck down a notification of the Andhra Pradesh Waqf Board that sought to designate thousands of acres of State-owned land as waqf.

The court also upheld the requirement of registering waqf properties on a central digital portal, reasoning that it is essential for transparency and noting that such registration has been required by law since 1923.

The court refused to stay the application of the Limitation Act, 1963, to waqf properties, noting that the statute applies uniformly to all properties. Under the 1995 Act, waqf land had been exempt, allowing Waqf boards to reclaim encroached property without being bound by the Act's 12-year limitation period.

What are the implications?
Faizan Mustafa, noted academician and Vice-Chancellor of Chanakya National Law University, Patna, told *The Hindu* that reading too much into the interim order would be premature since the judgment on merits is still awaited. "The court may strike down a few more problematic provisions or even uphold those it has now sustained," he said.

On the court's refusal to treat the five-year requirement of "practising Islam" as constitutionally suspect, Dr. Mustafa said that the provision effectively empowers state officials to adjudicate an individual's religiosity. "Once a person embraces Islam, they acquire all associated rights, including the right to religious dedication. Whether one accepted the faith yesterday or was born into it makes no difference. Introducing such a caveat into property rights will only result in policing private religious choices," he cautioned.

However, he welcomed the court's finding that vesting executive officers with the power to decide questions of title contravenes the principle of separation of powers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my Client is proposing to purchase for valuable consideration the immovable property more fully described in the Schedule written hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the 'Schedule Property' from Mr. N.K. Varma son of N. Krishna Rao who claims to be the lawful owner in possession and occupation of the Schedule Property.

Any person/s, financial institutions, statutory authorities objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property may lodge their objections and / or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within 7 (Seven) days from the date of this publication and objection and / or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my Client and my Client will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claimants/ objections from any person/s.

SCHEDULE

(Description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of the immovable vacant BDA Property bearing Site No. 565, BBMP Khatha No. 453/565, BBMP New Property EPID No. 4328468959, situated at HSR Layout, IV Sector, Now comes under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, BBMP HSR Layout Ward No. 174, Bangalore, measuring East to West 15.24 Meter and North to South 24.38 Meter, totally measuring 371.55 Square Meters & bounded as follows.

East by : Site No.564; West by : Site No.566; North by : Road; South by : Site Nos. 579 & 580.

Place : Bengaluru **Date : 18.09.2025**

Sd./- **A.B. Cariappa,** Advocate, Kar 1759/95
No. 154, 3rd Floor, Mallige Complex, K.H.B. Colony, 5th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560 095. **Ph : 9845700443**

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NIRAV Ramesh Tukadiya s/o Ramesh Devram Tukadiya, r/o: F.No–A326, Kethana Eternal Blossom, Kaverappa Layout Kadubeesanahalli, Blr–560103. Have changed my name as Nirav Rameshbhai Tukadiya. Vide affidavit on 16/09/2025.

I, SWARNALATHA.J D/o Jagadish.M, aged 56 years, R/at No.22, 2nd Main Road, Singapura Layout, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru-560097, have changed my name from Swarnalatha Rajendran to Swarnalatha.J vide Affiadvit No.IN-KA45080795004923X, dated 16.09.2025 sworn before Notary Chandrakala, Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE HON'BLE SUB JUDGE (MACT) MANAPPARAI, TRICHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT
I.A. No. 1 /2024 in M.C.O.P.No. 169 /2023

P. Palaniyammal,
Wife of Perumal,
And another No. 180,
Kathikaran Patti, Samudram,
Mmanapparai, Manapparai
Tk, Trichy Dt-621306
.... Petitioners
-Vs-
Kanala Suribabu, Son of Damodara Reddy, No. 48, J S Dinne, J P Nagar, 5th Phase, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka State-560076.
.....2nd Respondent

Notice

Taken notice that the petitioner was claiming compensation against you for the death of their Son in a Motor Accident in **MCOP. No. 169/2023 in I.A.No. 1/2024** pending on the file of Hon'ble Sub Judge Manapparai (Tamilnadu). The above case is posted on **23.09.2025** you may appear before this Hon'ble Court on **23.09.2025 at 10.30 AM** for your objection and counter I if any failing which you will be set Exparte.

R. RAJKUMAR B.A., B.L.,
Advocate for the petitioners

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL XVIII ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE
O.S. No. 4549/2019 (CCH-10)

BETWEEN: SRI. VINID KUMAR CHITTARIGEMATH, S/O. LATE SRI. SUBRAYA SADASHIVA BHAT, AGED ABOUT 60 YEARS, RESIDING AT NO. 303, SHRINIKET APARTMENTS, MSR COLLEGE ROAD, MATHIKERE, BENGALURU - 560 054. ... **PLAINTIFF**

AND: THE ODDICIAL LIQUIDATOR MALLESHWARAM TAILORING SOCIETY & OTHER ... **DEFENDANTS**

NOTICE TO THE PROPOSE DEFENDANT No.10

10.SRI.SRINIVAS, S/o LAKSHMIPATHI, aged about 43 years, Residing at No.26/1, 1st Floor, 11th Main, 50ft Road, Near Ayyappa Temple, Raghavendra Block, Bangalore -560 050

WHEREAS, the above named Plaintiff instituted a suit against you for the declaration and possession with interest from the date of the suit till realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before the XVIII Addl. City Civil Court, Bengaluru (CCH.No.10) on **09/10/2025** at **11:00 A.M** in person or through advocate/pleader to answer the questions to the same. Failing which the suit will be heard and determined as exparte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Site No. 36/1 in the layout formed by The Malleswaram Tailoring Co-Operative Society Ltd., Laggere, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and Site bearing No. 167/1 situated in the layout formed by Sri Sathyanarayana Credit Co-operative Society Ltd. Both sites are situated adjacent to one another, together measuring East to West 52 feet and North to South 25 feet having the following boundaries: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No. 161 in Sri Sathyanarayana Credit Co-operative Society Ltd. extension, **North by:** Remaining portion of the property belonging to Vendor, **South by:** Site No. 167.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court on this 01/08/2025

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru

SRI. T. SESHAGIRI RAO, Advocate No.230, II Main, II Cross, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bangalore-560 086.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUBHASH, s/o Manik, aged 48 years, R/ at Kusrampalli Thanda village, Kollur post Chincholi tq Kalaburagi Dist Karnataka, hereby declare that my son Avinash, born on 06/09/2003, is hereafter known as Avinash Rathod sworn before notary Deepsing K Chawan dated 15.09.2025 Chincholi

I, SWATHI Viswasarai w/o Sainath Viswasarai, r/o: Block1 Andrina, Ft.No–1186 Prestigelakeside Habitat, Gunjur (V), Varthur Main Road, Blr–560087. Have changed my name as Swathi Nimmaka. Vide affidavit on 16/09/2025.

I, ARMY No.13920371A NK Lingala Ranga Reddy Unit R/O AMC Centre and School Lucknow Cantt, UP PIN: 226002, residing at No. 97, 6th Cross, Sainagar Phase 2, Near Sambhram College, Chikkabettahalli, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560097, do hereby declare that I have changed my Spouse name from Hymavathi Devi to Lingala Hymavathi Devi, vide affidavit dated 15/09/2025, sworn before first class magistrate at Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients,Sri.M.Sathyanarayana Shetty, Smt.M.N.Rachana, Smt. Vidhyalakshmi.V.A and Smt B.N. Lalitha are intending to purchase Land bearing **Sy.No.28/6, measuring 0-17.08 guntas,** situated at Harobande village, Kasba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District and bounded on;

East by : Tank,
West by : NH-7 Road,
North by : Sy.No.28/4 belongs to Smt Komalatha,
South by : Sy.No.29 belongs to M.Satyanarayana & Others.

from it's owners Smt.Eshwaramma, Sri.S.Girish kumar and Sri.M. Harishkumar, if anybody have any claim,right, interest or objections over the same, please send your objections to me as address shown below within 07 days from the date of publication.

R.CHANDRAKUMAR,ADVOCATE, RCK-LAW-INC., #72/A, 12th cross, II Main, Mahalakshmilayout, Bengaluru-86 | Mob-9448506294.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients,Sri.M.Sathyanarayana Shetty, Smt.M.N.Rachana, Smt. Vidhyalakshmi.V.A and Smt B.N. Lalitha are intending to purchase Land bearing **Sy.No.28/4, measuring 0-17.08 guntas,** situated at Harobande village, Kasba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk and Chikkaballapura Disrtict bounded on;

East by : Tank,
West by : NH-7 Road,
North by : Sy.No.28/5 belongs to Smt.Parvathamma,
South by : Sy.No.28/6 belongs to Smt.Eshwaramma.

from it's owners Smt V.komalatha, Sri R.manjunath, Master.Rakshith kumar. M and Master.Amruth.M, if anybody have any claim, right, interest or objections over the same, please send your objections to me as address shown below within 07 days from the date of publication.

R.CHANDRAKUMAR,ADVOCATE, RCK-LAW-INC., #72/A, 12th cross, II Main, Mahalakshmilayout, Bengaluru-86 | Mob-9448506294.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: CEE/Tr(O)Z/TKR/SEE/AEE-2/25-26/6836-37&6838-39 Date: 15.09.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites tenders for the following works on **Total Turnkey basis.**

1) Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TR(O)Z/TKR/SEE(O)/AEE-2/2025-26/0043/Dtd: 11.09.2025.

Combined Package for; Work A: Supply & Laying of Copper Control Cable at 400kV side for replacement of faulty control cable from 400kV side ICT-02 HV breakers to control room C&R Panel & Beerenahalli-02 C&R Panel CB BMK Box to relay panel at 400/220kV R/S Guttur.

Work B: Supply & Laying of Copper Control Cable for replacement of faulty protection, metering, CT/PT cables for 400kV, 220kV lines including ICT's, 400kV reactors at 400/220kV R/S Guttur.

2) Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TR(O)Z/TKR/SEE(O)/AEE-2/2025-26/0042/Dtd: 08.09.2025.

Replacement of damaged conductor for a distance of 0.6 Kms re-arrangement of load of 66KV sub-station Guttur & 66KV Harihara-Hosapete sub-station from 66KV Halasabalu line or in Harihara Taluk, Davangere District on Item Wise Tender Basis including supply, erection, releasing, transportation, loading, unloading & Commissioning.

The detailed information regarding subject enquiry in KPP portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **20.09.2025** and other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- **Chief Engineer (Elec.), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, "Prasarana Bhavana", 1st Floor, Tumakuru 66/11kV S/s Premises,Tumakuru-572 103. Ph: 0816-2279074.**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY

Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary.

No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/Various Heads/2025-26/962 Dt. 12-09-2025.

Short Tender Notification (Through KPPP Portal only)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 08 works comprising of approved Building works under 2024-25 KKRDB and 2024-25 Flood 5054 through KPPP portal.

Indent No.

1.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT16861/Call-2
2.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT16862/Call-2
3.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT17933/Call-2
4.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT18022/Call-2
5.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT18149/Call-2
6.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT18090/Call-2
7.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT17935/Call-2
8.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT18023/Call-2

Contractors are required to submit the tender before 19-09-2025 at 4.30 PM by uploading the relevant documents through KPPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from 12-09-2025 to 19-09-2025 at 4.30 PM. Tenders will be opened through KPPP portal on 20-09-2025 at 17.30 PM. Any changes in the notification will be published KPPP website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/456/KSMCA/2025-26

INNOVATE KARNATAKA — K-tech

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Ref: KITS/IT/SUCO/57/2025-AA-KITS

KITS invites applications from eligible Educational Institutions across Karnataka to establish Innovation Labs for the FY 2025-26, under LEAP (Local Economy Accelator Program).

The interested Educational Institutions are required to submit an application in the prescribed form along with the necessary enclosures available in the department website: https://eitbt.karnataka.gov.in/ along with Annexures (printed on letter head) should be emailed to **leap.innovationlab@gmail.com** at with subject line "Selection of the Educational Institutions for Establishing Innovation Labs", Call for proposals document can be accessed on the department website-QR code.

Scan for Apply

The deadline for submission of application is **16/10/2025, 5:00 PM**. Refer Call for proposals document for eligibility criteria and other conditions.

Sd/-
Managing Director

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire, # 59, 3rd Floor, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020. Tel: 080-22231006
E-mail: leap.innovationlab@gmail.com

DIPR/CP/2852/AKAR/2025-26

KIDWAI MEMORIAL INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY,

Cancer Research & Training Centre
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION (Regional Centre of Cancer Research & Treatment Member of International Union Against Cancer)
Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, Bangalore-560029
Ph: +91 080-2656 0722/2656 0723, 080-6669 7999

No:KMIO/MNT/AMCMOPL/457/2025-26/e-1577895,e-1883408, e-1706168 Date: 17.09.2025

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Online Tenders are invited in Two Bid System for the following through GOK KPP Portal tender for Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology.

Sl No.	Tender No. & Date	Name of the Items
1.	**No.KMIO/MNT/AMC MEDICAL OXYGEN PIPE LINE/457/2025-26, DT:17.09.2025**	Providing AMC Services for Medical Oxygen Pipe Line System at KMIO Estimated Cost:14.58 Lakhs
2.	**No.KMIO/MNT/CMC FIRE HYDRANT/458/2025-26 DT:17.09.2025**	Providing CMC Services for Fire Hydrant Systems Installed at Various blocks of KMIO Estimated Cost:17.10 Lakhs
3.	**No.KMIO/MNT/ BATTERIES/459/2025-26 DT:17.09.2025**	Supplying and Installation of On -Line UPS System Batteries on Buy Back offer for Old Batteries Estimated Cost:53.50 Lakhs

The Bid Document will be available in online from **22.09.2025** to **14.10.2025** Bidders can view and download the Bid Document from the Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Bids have to be submitted through KPP Portal and KPP Portal fees. The last date and time of Receipt of Bid through KPP Portal is **14.10.2025** till **4-00 P.M.** Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/ reject/cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereof

DIPR/SI/2838/2025-26 **Sd/- FINANCIAL ADVISOR**

City scientists develop affordable fruit fly trap; seek global patents

The device works by giving out a smell that fruit flies can't resist, and once they enter, they get stuck and can't escape

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

For years, farmers across India have struggled to protect mango, guava, sapota, and other citrus crops from the attack of fruit flies. Now, after three years of research and trials, scientists at the National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (NBAIR), Bengaluru, (under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research) have developed a device - 'Shatpada Fruit Fly Trap' - that reportedly provides long-lasting pest control at nearly one-fourth the cost of existing products.

The device has completed successful multi-location trials and is now seeking patent in the U.S., Europe, Japan, China and Australia.

According to scientists, the device is a "controlled release pheromone device" which slowly releases insect pheromones (chemical signals) into the air over a long time. It works by giving out a smell that fruit flies can't resist, and once they enter, they get stuck and can't escape.

Fruit fly trap at a glance

- Developed by ICAR – National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (NBAIR), Bengaluru
- Controlled-release pheromone device
- Attracts and traps fruit flies in mango, guava, sapota & citrus crops
- Made in India, cost only a quarter of marketed alternatives
- Patent applications filed in the U.S., Europe, Japan, China & Australia
- Tested for three years across 11 Indian States

The project, led by Dr. S.N. Sushil, director of NBAIR, and carried by Dr. K.J. David, entomologist, scientist at NBAIR, and Dr. Deepa Bhagat, principal scientist in Organic Chemistry at NBAIR, has been developed at the institute's PheraSense Nanotechnology and Chemical Synthesis Laboratory in Bengaluru.

What sets it apart

"The trap relies on natural chemical signals or pheromones, that fruit flies use to communicate. Scientists, for a long time, have used synthetic pheromones to attract and capture insects, but earlier devices such as glass vials, cotton wicks, rubber septa or wooden blocks had flaws. They either evaporated too quickly, degraded in sunlight or rain, or absorbed the pheromones without releasing them effectively. Farmers had to replace it every 7-15 days, adding to costs while some even needed refrigeration before use," Dr. David explained.

The Shatpada trap, through its controlled-release technology, tackles all these issues. Instead of liquid vials or porous wood, the pheromone is immobilised inside a specially made semi-solid matrix.

The design ensures that the chemical is released slowly and evenly over 45 to 90 days, rather than in a burst followed by rapid decline. The trap has a twin funnel-shaped design that guides flies inside and prevents their escape. This device, made from durable, recyclable plastic, is also weather resistant and can be used multiple times with new lures.

Trials across 11 States

Over three years, the trap, under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Fruits (AICRP-Fruits), was tested in mango, sapota, and guava orchards across India's 11 major fruit belts, from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in the south to Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand in the north. In all the cases, farmers reported that the new device captured more flies than conventional traps, stayed effective for weeks longer and reduced the need for repeated pesticide sprays.

Dr. Bhagat highlighted that unlike earlier technologies, this semi-solid formulation is easy to transport, requires no refrigeration, and is simple to scale up. Several industries are in the process of acquiring this technology from ICAR-NBAIR. Once transferred, the product will be commercially available at a competitive price point to benefit farmers across India, she added.

Special teams formed to crack looting of SBI in Vijayapura dist.

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Vijayapura Police have formed multiple special teams to investigate the robbery at the State Bank of India branch in Chadachan in the district.

Superintendent of Police Laxman Nimbargi has formed at least four teams to study various aspects of the offence and trace the accused, police sources said.

Preliminary inquiry has revealed an interesting episode: the robbers have had a brief tryst with a herd of sheep while fleeing.

According to a complaint by SBI officials, 20 kg of gold and ₹1.4 crore in cash were taken away at gunpoint by the robbers. They tied the hands and legs of the bank officers and staff and fled with the loot on Tuesday.

According to the complaint by branch manager Tarakeshwar Gangappa Venkatesh, a man entered the bank holding a half-filled current account opening form. The accused met the manager and some officers to seek their help. However, they told him to come back after filling the form properly.

After a few minutes, when they tried to close the accounts and lock the lockers, as part of their activities at the end of the day, three men forced them to hand over the valuables.

All three accused were wearing COVID-19 masks. They were holding guns and knives.

They tied up 10 people in the bank – six staff and four customers – using plastic tags. They made away with ₹1.4 crore in cash. They also emptied 298 of the 425 lockers in the bank.

The quantum of valuables, including gold jewellery, is estimated to be around 20 kg. Most of this gold was kept by customers for obtaining loans. However, the bank officials were unable to provide the exact estimates of the stolen goods as the bank's LAN network was faulty.

The complaint states that the accused were aged between 20 and 30 and spoke in Hindi. They wore black T-shirts, trousers and caps. The complainant has expressed the confidence that he will able to identity the accused if he sees them again.

Meanwhile, investigation has revealed that the accused used a getaway car that had a fake number plate. They were headed to the inter-State border towards Pandharpur in Maharashtra.

When they entered Hulajanti in Solapur district in Maharashtra, a herd of sheep blocked the road and their vehicle met with an accident with a two-wheeler. This led to an argument with local villagers. However, they left the spot after threatening the villagers.

Officers from the Chadachan Police Station have raised a First Information Report. Mr. Nimbargi said that the police are hopeful of solving the crime soon.

'India ranks second in potato production'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hailing Shimla-based Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI) and All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) in evaluating and propagating the technologies, in potato crop, Dr. Brajesh Singh, director ICAR - CPRI, said due to these efforts, now India ranks second in potato production and one of the important exporter of potato.

He was speaking at the 43rd Annual Group meeting of All India Coordinated Research Project on Potato, held at the College of Horticulture, Bengaluru, a three-day programme which started on Wednesday.

In South India

Vishnuvardhana, Vice-Chancellor, University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, highlighted the importance of potato in South India and suggested exploring Karnataka for seed production. He also suggested developing some new varieties suitable for cultivation and having heat-tolerant, bacterial wilt and late blight resistant varieties.

A total of 70 scientists working on potato crop participated from different parts of India. The programme was organized by University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, Horticultural Research and Extension Centre, Hassan and CPRI, Shimla.

Ambaari Utsav services fetch KSRTC ₹42 crore on airport-Kundapur route

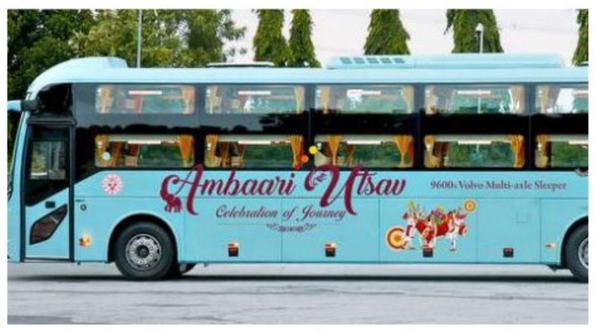
Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Responding to increasing passenger demand, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) introduced two Ambaari Utsav sleeper buses between Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru and Kundapur.

Since the launch, from January to August 2025, the two Ambaari Utsav buses together carried over 32,000 passengers and generated revenue of ₹42.06 crore.

While one schedule accounted for ₹18.14 crore with 16,024 passengers, the other contributed ₹23.92 crore with 16,099 passengers. "This shows the growing demand for the airport connectivity service," an official said.

This was the first time KSRTC had deployed sleeper buses on the airport-Kundapur route, replacing the earlier Flybus services that operated with seat-only coaches.



Since their launch in January 2025, the two Ambaari Utsav buses together carried over 32,000 passengers.

Officials said the move comes following persistent appeals from passengers for sleeper buses, given the long duration of the journey. The airport-Kundapur route takes nearly 11 hours. The introduction Ambaari Utsav sleeper buses offered greater comfort and convenience, officials said.

"These buses are designed for long-distance travel and come with Scandinavian-inspired aerodynamic design and plush interiors. The 15-metre-long coaches are fitted with 40 sleeper berths in a 2x1 configuration, ensuring a comfortable ride compared to seat-only buses," a senior KSRTC official said. The buses are operating daily via Hassan, Mangaluru, Udupi and Manipal, following the same route as the previous Flybus service.

According to KSRTC, one bus departs from KIA at 9 p.m. and reaches Kundapur at 8.15 a.m. the next day. Another leaves at 10 p.m. and arrives in Kundapura at 9 a.m. the next day. Officials said the Ambaari Utsav fleet has been introduced on select high-demand inter-city routes connecting Bengaluru to Mangaluru, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Ernakulam, Thrissur and Kozhikode. "There has been consistent demand for sleeper buses on long-haul airport routes. With Ambaari Utsav, passengers get a technically advanced, premium travel option," the official added.

The Flybus service, KSRTC's flagship premium airport shuttle with seat-only coaches, continues to connect KIA with major cities and towns in Karnataka, including Mysuru, Mangaluru and Madikeri.

Kristu Jayanti varsity appointed UNAI hub for SDG 10

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be) University, Bengaluru, has been appointed as the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) Global Hub for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10: Reduced Inequalities, and as the Vice-Chair for Teaching and Education for 2025-2027. This recognition places the varsity among a global network of over 1,700 institutions from 150 countries committed to advancing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

As UNAI hub and Vice-Chair, the university will spearhead academic and collaborative initiatives addressing inequality and promoting inclusive education worldwide.

Timeline extended

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Office of the Welfare and Cess Commissioner, operating under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, has extended key deadlines for the Pre-Matric Scheme.

The scheme, which offers financial assistance for the education of children of beedi, cinema, and certain mine workers, has new dates for the academic year 2025-2026.

According to a notification dated September 16, the last date for submitting applications on the National Scholarship Portal has been extended to September 30.

Following the submission deadline, the verification process also has extended timelines. The deadline for INO (Institute Nodal Officer) level verification (L1) is now October 15, while DNO (District Nodal Officer) / SNO (State Nodal Officer) level verification (L2) has been extended to October 31.

Indian Overseas Bank
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI-600002

Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY, IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PROCURE-TO-PAY (P2P) SOLUTION

EOI REFERENCE NUMBER: EOI/ITD/001/2025-26 DATED 10.09.2025

The Above RFP tender document is available and can be downloaded from the following websites **www.iob.in** & **https://iobtenders.auctiontiger.net** For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website **https://iobtenders.auctiontiger.net**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Infrastructure Development, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department)
Karnataka Maritime Board
Office of the Executive Engineer, Port & Fisheries Division
Shamili Hall, 2nd Floor, Ambalapady, Udupi - 576103
Tel. No.: 0820-2532961 E-mail: pfdudupi@gmail.com

No. EE: P&F :DVN:Udupi:AE:Tender Notification-09/2025-26 Dt: 17.09.2025

Invitation for Tenders (IFT)

Tender Notification

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, "Dredging at Barmouth and Commercial Channel (Tender Amount of Rs. 160.10 Lakhs) (IDD/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT63/CALL-2)" Tenders are invited in E-Procurement to execute the works. To participate in E-Procurement and for more information may be obtained in (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) website. Last date for Tender Submission is 25-09-2025 at 5.00 p.m. For further extension refer above mentioned website. No separate paper notification will be issued.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer
Port and Fisheries Division, Udupi

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,
"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi – 585105. Tel : 08472-220817,
Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/Aland NGR/2025-26/697 Date: 16-09-2025

-: NOTICE INVITING TENDER – 2ND CALL :-

1) Detail of Work: "Construction of 4.00 MLD capacity WTP at Hebli Road in Aland town under Nagarothan (phase-4) (Lumpsum-No Variation". **(Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2025-26/WS /WORK_INDENT366/CALL-2),** 2) Amount of Estimate: **Rs. 391.03 Lakhs (Excluding GST)** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Eligible Contractors, 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount: Rs. 5,87,000/-, 5) Period of Completion: 12 Months (Including Monsoon), 6) Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from the e-procurement portal: **19-09-2025 after 13:00 Hours**, 7) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting : **03-10-2025 at 11:30 Hours**, 8) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **24-10-2025 up to 17:30 Hours**, 9) Date and Time for Opening of Tender : **27-10-2025 after 11:00 Hours,** 10) Addl. information: Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Telephone: 08472-220817 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com, 11). Address of E-portal: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/518/KSMC&A/2025-26

Sd/- Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Public Works, Department, Sirasi Division(U.K), Karnataka Ph: 08384-223164, Fax: 08384-224100

No. PWD/SR./Dn/AE/IFT/Foot Bridge/ 2025-26/ 01553 Date:15.09.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) KW-3

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(1) The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. **The price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. (26.03.2021)** (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors: (3) Tenders must be accompanied by EMD Declaration form Proforma attached (4) Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) with in the date and time published in e-procurement portal. The technical bid will be opened after prescribed time and date in the eprocurement portal, in the presence of the Tenderers who wish to attend at the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Department, SIRSI Division. (5) Other details can be seen in the tender documents
(Total: 1 Work)
(1) Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **22-09-2025 up to 16.00.00** (2) Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders: **23-09-2025 up to 16.00.00** (3) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid: **24-09-2025 @ 16.30.00** (4) Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid: **25-09-2025 @16.00.00**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Public Work Department Division
Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/507/25-26 Dt.17.09.2025

BELAGAVI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous Medical Institution)
Dr. B. R. Amedkar Road, Belagavi - 590 001.(Hospital) Phone : 0831-2420320
Fax : 0831-2420173, (College) Phone : 0831-2421464. Fax : 0831-2403126,
E-Mail: belgaum.bims@gmail.com Website : www. bimsbelgaum.org

No. : B.I.M.S./G.N.L.-2/35/2025-26 Date : 17-09-2025

NOTIFICATION

The Director Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences Belagavi hereby invites application for the **Post of Bio Medical Engineer on Consolidated Salary.** The interested eligible candidates are informed to submit their applications to BIMS Office during working hours in the prescribed form along with **Photo Copies of relevant Documents on or before 26-09-2025 at 5.00 p.m.** Short listed candidates will be intimated for interview.

Application can be collected from BIMS Office during Working hours from 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. by producing copy of relevant documents to Asst. Administrative Officer, BIMS, Belagavi.

Sl. No.	Post	Qualification	Experience	Age Limit	Salary Rs. Per Month
01	Biomedical Engineer - 2 Post (For 6 Months)	BE. Biomedical Engineer	Minimum 2 year Experience	As per rules of Govt. of Karnataka	Consolidated Rs. 50,000/- Per Month

No TA / DA will be paid for attending the interview.

Sd/- Director,
Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences, Belagavi.

DIPR/Belagavi/1043/Manipal/2025-26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount		Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1.	(North-East)	BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/ 2132/2025-26 Date: 15.09.2025	1.	Rs.37,21,924/- / Rs.74,500/-	25.09.2025 upto 4:00 PM	26.09.2025 after 3:00 PM
2.		BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/ PB/ 2133/2025-26 Date: 15.09.2025	2.	Rs.7,12,413/- / Rs.18,000/-		
3.		BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/ PB/ 2134/2025-26 Date: 15.09.2025	3.	Rs.13,87,101/- / Rs.34,700/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-East)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the abovesigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/2848/SSC/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
O/o Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division
First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road,
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple) Bengaluru-560070.

No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/17/2025-26 Dated:16.09.2025

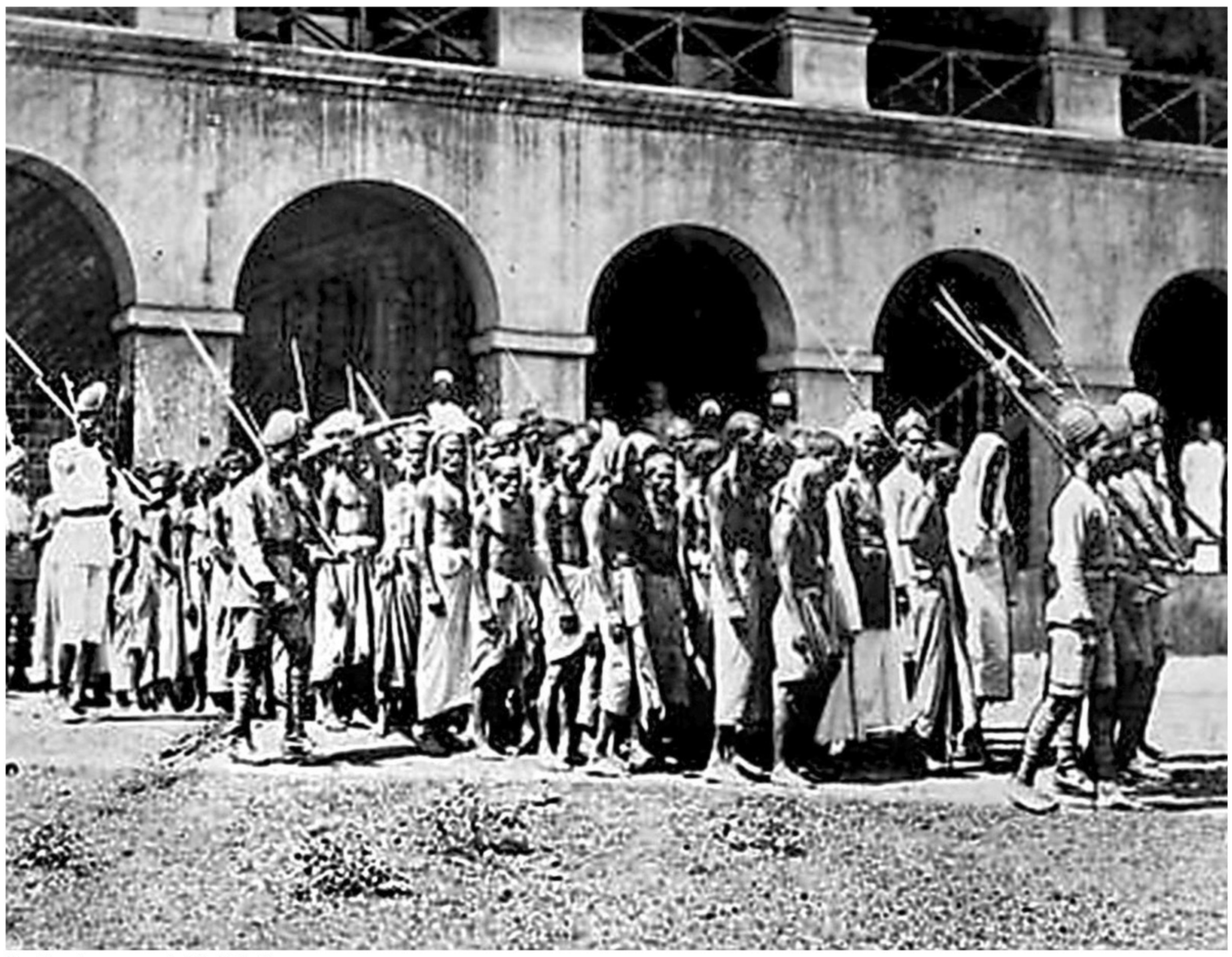
Short Term Tender
KPPP Tender Notice, Two Cover System

Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For 4225-04-102-0-01(386) Grants Works. (**RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT16277 & RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT16281**) The work details can obtained from the KPPP Web Site The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **Dated:24.09.2025 upto 4.00 pm**. Further details can be obtained from web site at **http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

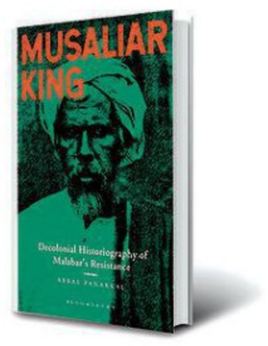
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bangalore

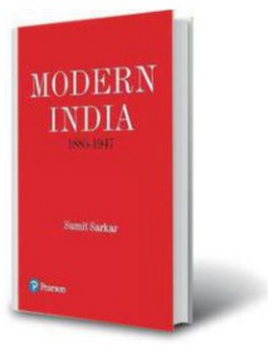
DIPR/CP/Shirdi Sai/2841/2025-26

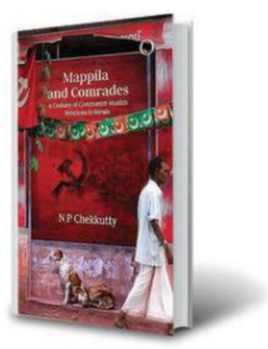
BIBLIOGRAPHY



Moplah prisoners go on trial in Calicut. GETTY IMAGES







A little-known resistance in Malabar region during the run-up to Independence

A new book sheds light on the 'Malabar Revolt' in an area which had a history of Muslims and Hindus collaboratively persevering in their defiance against colonial forces; other books explore its links to the Khilafat movement and why it is more than a peasant uprising

Ziya Us Salam

Growing up in Delhi, one had only a limited idea about the resistance movement in the Malabar region. The popular history books tended to treat it at best as a little outpost of the freedom movement. Noted historian Bipan Chandra in *India's Struggle for Independence* (Penguin) dubbed it as a peasant movement.

"In August 1921, peasant discontent erupted in the Malabar district of Kerala. Here, Mappila tenants rebelled. Their grievances related to lack of any security of tenure, renewal fees, high rents...the impetus for resistance had first come from the Malabar District Congress Conference at Manjeri in April 1920," Chandra writes. Sumit Sarkar too, confined himself to calling it an "anti-landlord revolt" in his book, *Modern India (1885-1947),* published by Pearson. There have been noises about the association with the Khilafat movement in academic circles, though. Just as there are historians who see it merely from a communal prism. A holistic picture had failed to emerge.

Enlightening exploration

Some belated but well-deserved attention on the resistance movement has come courtesy Abbas Panakkal's *Musaliar King: Decolonial Historiography of Malabar's Resistance* (Bloomsbury). Starting off as an exploratory exercise on the 75th anniversary of the movement, Panakkal's venture transforms into an enlightening journey.

Early in the book, the author writes, "The socio-geographical landscape of our community underwent profound transformations in the wake of the cataclysmic events of 1921-22. This epoch witnessed a staggering loss of lives, the forced displacement of families... The old mosque of Tirurangadi emerged as a veritable repository of memories and narratives, a historical bastion of ideological resistance against the British colonial apparatus." Fittingly, it was on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the 1921 resistance that Panakkal started his exploration, speaking to the family members of those directly involved.

Among them was Muhammed Ali Musaliar, grandson of Ali Musaliar, a luminary of the 1921 struggle. The British referred to Ali Musaliar as a king; the locals regarded him as a community and spiritual leader, calling him Musaliar Uppapa. Indeed, if Musaliar was a 'king', Malabar was his 'kingdom'.

Incidentally, the term Malabar is derived from the vernacular Mala, signifying hill, and the affix originating from the Arabic word *barr,* which means the source of all goodness. The region had a long tradition of anti-colonial resistance dating back to the 16th century. "Muslims and Hindus collaboratively persevered in their resistance against colonial forces," writes Panakkal.

This strong anti-colonial stance had unforeseen consequences. The British, with not a little help from some Indian officials, sought to undermine the movement. Among them was C. Gopalan Nair, Malabar district deputy collector, who "unabashedly deployed his literary prowess in favour of the British cause". Observes Panakkal: "The usage of terms such as Malabar Revolt and Moplah Rebellion to delineate these struggles is emblematic of this issue. Revolt itself is a term crafted by colonial administration, characterising violent actions against a recognised government or ruler."

'Peaceful coexistence'

There were others, though, whose hearts beat for the locals, luminaries who either linked the resistance to the Khilafat movement or, in isolation, read it as an agrarian struggle. Among them were Saumyendranath Tagore, who regarded it as "an organic and spontaneous 'uprising' of the Malabar peasantry against British imperial rule" and E.M.S. Namboodiripad, who too "didn't discount the role played by agrarian discontent". There was a common thread: the oppression and exploitation meted out by colonial officials and landlords was no less severe upon the Hindu peasants as they were on their Muslim counterparts. Writes Panakkal, "The Malabar narrative heralded a rare phenomenon: the harmonious convergence of Hindus and Muslims. This coalition was underpinned by a shared objective – to oust the oppressor – and a collective aspiration for a peaceful coexistence in the region."

It is something with which even R.N. Hitchcock, police superintendent of Malabar, agreed. As written by N.P. Chekkutty in *Mappila and Comrades: A Century of Communist-Muslim Relations* (Other Books). "Hitchcock also reveals that Hindus were involved in the rebellion, at least in some parts of the affected areas. 'The Hindus took an active part only in the extreme south-eastern area of the Valluvanad taluk and in small numbers for a concise time. They were then responsible for much property damage'." In his persuasively argued book, with much of the focus on the post-resistance time in the late 1930s and 40s, Chekkutty also talks of the rebels not harming any substantial section of the local population before going on to document the failure of the Congress to retain local Muslim support after the resistance movement. It was a vacuum which both the Communist Party of India and the All India Muslim League attempted to fill.

The Khilafat angle

Interestingly, against this background of common cause transcending the confines of faith came the pan-Islamist Khilafat movement. Things became even more ironic as Malabar's historical tapestry of anti-colonial resistance "had been woven with threads of unity binding Muslims and non-Muslims in a shared 'jihad' to safeguard the throne of the Hindu king, the Zamorin of Calicut," as analysed by Panakkal. Khilafat, Non-Cooperation, Mappila, with seemingly disparate social elements, all fused to bring about a strong anti-colonial movement.

Indeed, here both the communities enjoyed a rare camaraderie, and there was a happy collective involvement even in religiously significant events like the *nercha* and *utsavam*. During the latter, Muslim families returned with bags full of jaggery candies, much like Ali Musaliar used to do for Amina, his daughter. Sums up Panakkal: "The experience of Muslims and Islam in South India is different from the experience in North India, and this is not trivial."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Nepal has had a tumultuous September with the fall of its government and Parliament. Here's a quiz on the country's key leaders

Srinivasan Ramani

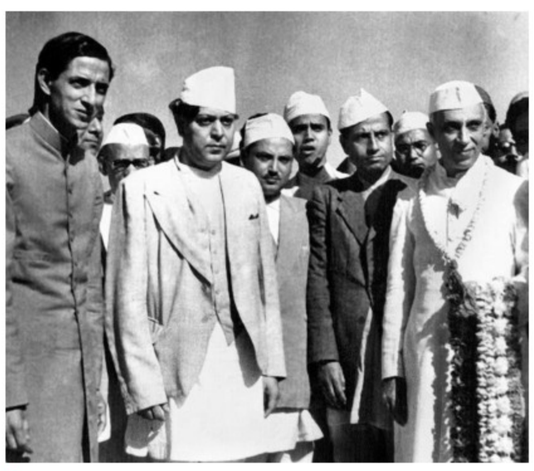
QUESTION 1
This person was the first democratically elected Prime Minister of Nepal. Name this prominent Nepali leader who staunchly believed in democratic socialism.

QUESTION 2
Considered the key founder of the communist movement in Nepal, this person played a major role in the struggles against the autocratic Ranacracy in Nepal, which ended in 1951. This person sought to align with the Nepali Congress in a democratic movement against the monarchy. Name him.

QUESTION 3
The younger brother of the person mentioned in Question 1, this leader played a prominent role in the 1990 Jan Andolan that led to the democratisation of the country from the Panchayat system to a constitutional monarchy.

QUESTION 4
A prominent Communist leader, this person was also actively involved in Jan-Andolan I and is considered the key mover behind the largest communist party (in Nepal), the CPN-UML's doctrine of "people's multi-party democracy". This person's life was cut short in a tragic and suspicious road accident in 1993. Name him.

QUESTION 5
This former PM of Nepal is considered one of the key architects of the process of electing a popular Constituent Assembly to rewrite its Constitution and of the transformation of Nepal from a constitutional monarchy into a republic. Name him, and also what is his connection to Jawaharlal Nehru University?



Visual Question:
Identify the two prominent Nepali leaders in the picture (2nd and 3rd from left) alongside Pandit Nehru. The picture was taken in 1951. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. In 2014, PM Modi led the BJP to a parliamentary majority. This was the first for the BJP since. **Ans: 1984**
2. Mr. Modi wrote a Gujarati-language book which describes events during the Emergency. **Ans: Sangharsh Ma Gujarat**
3. Which institution was replaced by the NITI Aayog? **Ans: Planning Commission**
4. Mr. Modi entered the Gujarat State Legislature after winning a byelection in? **Ans: Rajkot II**
5. Mr. Modi wrote a foreword to a 2014 textbook by which Indian educationist? **Ans: Dinanath Batra**
6. PM was a candidate in 2 LS constituencies in 2014. **Ans: Varanasi, Vadodara**
Visual: This image signifies the launch of a new initiative in 2014. **Ans: Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan on October 2, 2014**
Early Birds: C Saravanan | Sadhan Kumar Panda | Murari Mishra | Anubhav gupta

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

Upendran

"Where are you off to?"
"To the market. I need to buy some vegetables."
"If you are planning to buy onions, you'd better take Bala. Someone told me that he knows his onions."
"Ha! Ha! Ha!"
"What's so funny?"
"To 'know one's onions' has nothing to do with buying onions. It's an idiomatic expression meaning to be skilled or well informed. For example, every office needs workers who know their onions."
"We need teachers who know their onions."
"That's true. I had a teacher who was off her onion."
"Off her onion! What does it mean? Someone who doesn't eat onions?"
"No. No! When you say someone is 'off his/her onion', it means he/she is crazy. For example, our local MP is off his onion."
"Is it an informal expression?"
"That's right."
"I have a friend who is off his onions. Gopa! He met the Principal yesterday and said that we should have a debate on Ayodhya."
"Good! What is his onion! Doesn't he know that Ayodhya is a hot potato?"
"What does it mean?"
"A subject that is controversial or sensitive that people don't want to deal with it. is called a hot potato. For example, in many countries, the subject of abortion has become a hot potato."
"Some years ago, the Mandal Commission Report became a political hot potato in India."
"That's why some people wanted to drop it like a hot potato."
"To drop something like a hot potato! Does it mean to get rid of something unwanted very quickly?"
"To get rid of someone or something that is unwanted, very quickly.
For example, when Somu realised that Sunitha didn't have any money, he dropped her like a hot potato."
"People having AIDS are often dropped like a hot potato by their friends."
"Sad, but true. Here's another example. The new committee dropped the old project like a hot potato."
"My friend Shoba called up and ..."
"I like her. That girl is full of beans."
"First onions, then potatoes, and now beans!
'... if you refer to someone as being 'full of beans', it means he/she is very energetic, lively'. For example, for an 80 year old man, Suresh Rao is full of beans."
"My neighbour's six year old was full of beans this morning."
"Some people are full of beans early in the morning. By the way, what did Shoba want?"
"She wanted to know if she should tell Gopa about the surprise party we are planning for Raja."
"Gopa is sure to spill the beans."
"Spill the beans! Does it mean to reveal a secret or something?"
"That's right! When you spill the beans, you give away information intentionally or unintentionally. For example, when the man was caught, the police beat him till he spilled the beans about where the next robbery was going to be."
"I hate it when people spill the beans."
"So do I. Would you like to have some tea?"
"Tea? I thought you were on your way to buy vegetables!"
"Haven't we talked enough about vegetables? Besides, I've just realised that I haven't a bean to buy beans!"
Published in The Hindu on February 24, 1998

Word of the day

Taciturn:
tending not to say very much

Synonyms: uncommunicative, quiet, silent

Usage: *She is usually taciturn, but today she was very cheerful.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/taciturnpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /tæsɪtɜ:n/

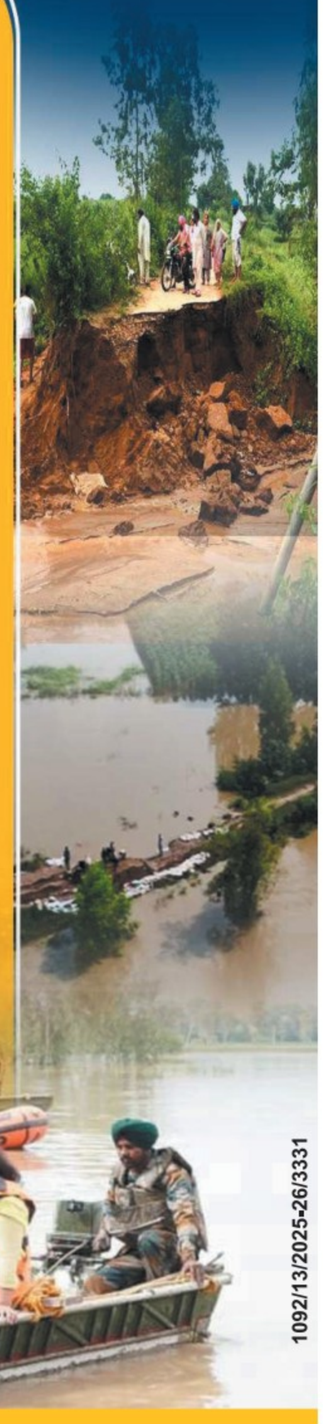
For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

rangla.punjab.gov.in

MISSION CHARDI KALA

Together, let's rebuild Punjab

- A disaster that affected **all 23 districts of Punjab & 2,300+ villages**
- **20 lakh people affected & 56 lives lost**
- Over **5 lakh acres** of crops destroyed
- **3,200+ schools & 1,400+ healthcare centres** damaged
- Over **8,500 km of roads** & **2,500 bridges/culverts** destroyed



1092/13/2025-26/3331

Just as "Chardi Kala" signifies the eternal spirit of strength and optimism, especially in the face of adversity, Mission Chardi Kala is a call to action for all Indians, especially Punjabis, globally to rise together as one family in the time of Punjab's greatest adversity.
Please donate generously — so that together, we can rebuild our great state of Punjab.

Contribute to

CHIEF MINISTER'S RANGLA PUNJAB FUND

To Donate Visit rangla.punjab.gov.in

Scan QR Code to donate

CSR contributions as well as contributions from NGOs, NRIs, OCIs and foreign citizens can be received under this Mission.

ECI to roll out SIR in State after Sept. 25

Commission expects the voting percentage in urban centres such as Bengaluru to go up in future polls after the completion of the exercise; SIR was last conducted in State in 2002; notification for 2025 SIR is expected shortly; number of voters is expected to increase from 3.5 crore to 5.5 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid the row over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, the Election Commission of India (ECI), after over two decades, is gearing up to launch an SIR of voter lists in Karnataka, anytime after September 25.

In Karnataka, the SIR was last conducted in 2002, and the notification for the 2025 SIR is expected shortly.

After conducting the SIR exercise to remove dead, migrated, and duplicate voters from the electoral roll, the voting percentage in urban centres like Bengaluru, which is significantly lower compared to the State average, is expected to increase in future elections. While there were approximately 3.5 crore voters in 2002, the ECI estimated the number to increase to around 5.5 crore in 2025.

During the SIR exercise, the updating of electoral rolls, including additions, transfers, and deletions to the electoral rolls through Forms 6, 7, and 8, will be frozen.

Honorarium doubled

With the completion of training for about 58,000 block-level officers (BLOs) by September 23, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Karnataka, will be ready to undertake the SIR, which is expected to be completed within three months, sources said.

The ECI, which earlier paid ₹6,000 as honorarium to the BLOs for the electoral roll revision, has enhanced it to ₹12,000. In addition, ₹6,000 will be allocated specifically for the SIR exercise, bringing the total to ₹18,000.

"Each BLO will be given a polling booth to cover, and the number of voters in each booth may vary according to the current norm," said sources.

The BLOs to be roped in include school teachers, Anganwadi workers, and State and Central government officials.

Each BLO will be given a polling booth to cover, and the number of voters in each booth may vary according to the current norm, say sources

Sources said that while each polling booth in Karnataka has different number of voters, some recording as many as 1,500, the number will not be more than 1,200 after January 1, 2026, when the SIR is completed, commission sources said.

10,000 applications

"Once the notification is issued, we will know the time frame within which the current electoral roll will be frozen. Currently, there are about 10,000 applications for addition to the electoral rolls before the commission, and officials have been asked to hasten the process so that these applications are not affected by the freeze," sources said.

The Election Commission of India has already interacted with the political parties in the State, seeking their cooperation, and has requested the parties to appoint booth-level workers to assist the exercise.

The 2002 electoral roll has been uploaded to the website for the convenience of voters.

The process of preparing for the SIR has been under way at the commission for about a month now, sources said.

The State government has also been asked not to transfer any official during the SIR exercise that could affect the process, sources said.

How SIR process will unfold

- The Election Commission freezes the 2025 electoral rolls once the notification is issued.
- Two sets of "pre-filled" enumeration form of the voters in the current electoral list will be given to the BLOs, who in turn will hand them over to the respective voters in the polling booth. Each enumeration form is unique and comes with a QR code.
- The BLOs have been asked to visit the locked houses thrice. They will drop the physical enumeration forms on the premises if it is still locked and try to make enquiries from neighbours to contact the voter.
- The voters have to submit self-attested documents along with one set of enumeration form to the BLOs. The voter has the option to update his/ her photo.
- The BLOs will give an endorsement to the voter on the other set of enumeration form, which forms a document for the voter to flag the issue of his/ her name missing from the voters list, if it happens in future.
- The voter has to provide a signed declaration form. A false declaration is punishable under the Representation of People Act, 1950.

- The voter can submit the enumeration form at only one place, to help weed out duplication.
- Camps equipped with Wifi facility will be established in every gram panchayat/ ward to assist the BLOs in the SIR exercise
- Those unable to do it physically can get the enumeration form online and complete the process of document submission online.
- Those born before July 1, 1987, can give one of the 12 listed documents. Those born after July 1, 1987, have to submit one of the 12 documents, along with one of the 12 documents of both parents.
- The Election Commission will use photo-similar entry and demographic-similar entry softwares to identify duplicate voters.
- Cases of orphans not having documents or those who do not have documents will be dealt with by the district election officer or elector registration officer.
- After the submission window, the Election Commission will publish draft electoral rolls and invite objections. The final electoral roll will be published later. The entire process is expected to be completed within 3 months.
- The electoral rolls will be published both in Kannada and English in 17 Assembly constituencies, Kannada and Urdu in two constituencies and Kannada and Marathi in 11 constituencies. In the rest of 194 constituencies, electoral rolls will be in Kannada.

List of documents to be accepted

1. Any identity card/ pension payment order issued to regular employee/ pensioner of any Central / State government or PSU.
2. Any identity card/ certificate/ document issued in India by government/ local authorities/ banks/ post office/ LIC/ PSUs prior to 01/ 07/ 1987.
3. Birth certificate issued by the competent authority.
4. Passport.
5. Matriculation/ educational certificate issued by recognised boards/ universities
6. Permanent residence certificate issued by competent State authority.
7. Forest right certificate.
8. OBC/ SC/ ST or any caste certificate issued by the competent authority.
9. National Register of Citizens (wherever its exists)
10. Family register, prepared by State/ local authorities.
11. Any land/ house allotment certificate by government.
12. Aadhaar is to be accepted and utilised as a proof of identity and not as a proof of citizenship as directed by Supreme Court.

SEC voter list

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While the Karnataka government has allowed the State Election Commission (SEC) to draw up a voter list of its own for the local bodies election, the Election Commission sources said that the matter did not concern them. "The SEC is also a constitutional body and if they decided to have one, they can have one. Kerala has a voter list of its own. Till now, the SEC in Karnataka has been taking our rolls. It does not affect us. It is not within our purview," sources in the commission said.

Panchamasalis to go with 'Hindu' for religion and 'Lingayat Panchamasali' for caste

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The demographically-strong Lingayat Panchamasali community, which has now three religious Peethas in Karnataka, has decided to go with "Lingayat Panchamasali" nomenclature during the forthcoming socio, economic and educational survey (caste census) in the State. And despite differences on the issue of how to name the religion, the community has decided to stick with "Hindu" in the religion column "for the time being."

Sri Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami speaking at the Lingayat Panchamasali meeting in Hubballi on Wednesday. KIRAN BAKALE

Two meetings

On Wednesday, two separate meetings – one in Bengaluru and another in Hubballi – were held by the community leaders and religious heads. In both meetings 'Lingayat Panchamasali' nomenclature for caste column received acceptance.

In both the meetings, the call for mentioning either Lingayat, Veerashaiva or Veerashaiva Lingayat given by the Akhila Bharat Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha, found a mention in the discussion.

While the Bengaluru meeting was unanimous on not dwelling into the issue of religion and mentioning 'Hindu' in the religion column, the Hubballi meeting saw heated discussion over the issue.

After debating on whether to mention "Lingayat" or "Hindu" in the religion column, the Hubballi meeting decided to go with "Hindu" for the time being until the issue of independent religion status for Lingayatism was sorted out.

Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami was earlier in the forefront of the Lingayat movement for independent religion status.

In Bengaluru, after holding discussions with various seers and community leaders on Wednesday, the seer of Veerashaiva Lingayat Panchamasali Jagadguru Peetha, Harihar, announced the decision to go with 'Lingayat Panchamasali' nomenclature.

The seer said there was no need to mention any sub caste. He said until the issue of separate religion was decided, the community should identify itself as Hindus.

In Bengaluru meeting former Minister Murugesh Nirani, Shankar Patil Munenakoppa, former MLC Mohan Limbikai and several other leaders from the Panchamasali community participated.

In the meeting held in Hubballi on Wednesday evening, Sri Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami of Lingayat Panchamasali Peetha at Koodalasangama too stressed the need for going with 'Lingayat Panchamasali (Code A-0868) to avoid confusion and to assert the community's identity.

SIT personnel coming out with skeletal remains at Banglagudde, near Dharmasthala, on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRAGEMENT

Dharmasthala case: SIT personnel seize 5 skulls and 100 bones

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged mass burials in Dharmasthala village found five skulls and 100 bones at Banglagudde near Dharmasthala in Karnataka on Wednesday.

They were found lying on the ground in the forest area, according to SIT sources. The officials recovered a rope, a walking stick, a poison bottle, and an identity card from the spot. They were recovered in the presence of Forest Department officials who were directed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to assist the SIT.

During questioning by the SIT following his arrest, Mr. Chinnaiah, had said that the skeletal remains he produced before the magistrate in Belthangady at the time of recording his statement were given to him by Vittala Gowda, the uncle of Soujanya, who was raped and murdered in October 2012.

Later, the SIT questioned Mr. Gowda and took him twice, a few days ago, to Banglagudde as he told the SIT that he got the remains from Banglagudde. In an interview to a local news website, Mr. Gowda claimed that he saw skeletal remains of eight persons, including a young child, and a few articles related to black magic at Banglagudde during his two visits for 'mazahar' by SIT.

Earlier, during the digging of the sites shown by Mr. Chinnaiah, the SIT had recovered some skeletal remains flound ying on the ground at Banglagudde.

Case against activist

Meanwhile, the Belthangady police have registered a case against activist Mahesh Shetty Thimarody, following the recovery of two swords and a gun by SIT during a search at his house in Ujire on August 26. In a complaint, SIT Superintendent or Police C.A. Simon, said the search was conducted as Chinnaiah had stayed in Mr. Thimarody's house for a few days before his arrest.

CM launches ₹649.47 cr. development works in Kalyana Karnataka region

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth ₹649.47 crore in the Kalyana Karnataka region as part of the Kalyana Karnataka Utsav celebrations here on Wednesday.

Of these, foundation stones were laid for 133 projects worth ₹570.05 crore, while 26 projects worth ₹79.41 crore were inaugurated.

Under the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB) grants, the Chief Minister laid foundation stones for 112 projects worth ₹350.05 crore and inaugurated four projects worth ₹3.35 crore.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reviewing the guard of honour during the Kalyana Karnataka Utsav in Kalaburagi on Wednesday. ARUN KULKARNI

In addition, foundation stones were laid for 21 projects worth ₹220 crore under various other departments, and 22 projects worth ₹76.06 crore were inaugurated and dedicated to the region.

Heart Line project

In a major initiative aimed at reducing deaths due to cardiac ailments and providing timely treatment during the 'golden hour', the Chief Minister launched the Heart Line project, funded by the KKRDB at a cost of ₹9.60 crore.

As part of the project, 32 state-of-the-art ambulances equipped with advanced cardiac emergency facilities were handed over to the Health Department. These include nine for Kalaburagi, five each for Koppal and Raichur, four each for Bidar and Ballari, three for Vijayanagara, and two for Yadgir. Each ambulance is equipped with a cardiac monitor, defibrillator, portable ventilator, Ambu bag, and emergency medications to effectively handle heart attack cases.

G.O. issued to grant ₹2,000 honorarium to ASHAs for survey work

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has directed all District Health and Family Welfare officers to ensure the participation of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) in the upcoming Social and Educational Survey (caste census) organised by the State Backward Classes Commission. The survey will be conducted across the State from September 22 to October 7. As an incentive, participating ASHAs will receive an honorarium of ₹2,000, funded by the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission through the Department of Health and Family Welfare.

Earlier, ASHAs across the State had announced their decision to stay away from the survey, citing the government's failure to ensure fair remuneration.

HC quashes criminal case against MP Sudhakar over cash seizure

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has quashed the criminal proceedings initiated against BJP Lok Sabha member K. Sudhakar in connection with a case of seizure of ₹4.8 crore cash from a premises belonging to a voter residing in the Nelamangala police station limits a day before the elections held to the Chickballapur Lok Sabha constituency on April 26, 2024.

Justice M.I. Arun passed the order while allowing the petition filed by Dr. Sudhakar, who had questioned the charge sheet filed by the police as well as the cognisance of the alleged offence taken by a special court of magistrates for criminal cases against present and former MPs and MLAs.

K. Sudhakar

The High Court stated that the offences under Sections 171E and 171F of the Indian Penal Code, for allegedly bribing and influencing voters, are not made out against the petitioner based on the materials in the charge sheet.

Dr. Sudhakar had claimed that he was falsely implicated solely based on a statement by the election nodal officer, who alleged that the money was kept in the house of one Govindappa of Madavara for its alleged distribution to voters of the constituency as a bribe on his behalf. It was also contended in the petition that there was no material in the charge sheet to link the seized cash to him as he was arraigned as an accused only based on the statement made by the nodal officer, who had alleged that he received a WhatsApp call and two messages with regard to seized cash from a mobile number, which allegedly belonged to Dr. Sudhakar.

Those in age group of 70 and above to get AB-ArK benefits

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has provided the necessary clearances for extending the benefits of Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK) health insurance scheme to senior citizens aged 70 and above. A notification regarding this was issued on Wednesday.

The notification states that the benefits of this scheme will be provided to all individuals aged 70 years and above, without considering any income ceilings.

However, these beneficiaries cannot enrol under other free medical schemes of the government, barring ESIS.

While those in this age group can enrol themselves by submitting an application to the authorities, the process of receiving applications will continue throughout the year, states the notification.

There is a separate module for registering beneficiaries in this age group in the mobile phone application (Ayushman application) and the web portal (beneficiary.nha.gov.in). Upon registration, they would also be given a unique Ayushman card, the notification states.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that my clients **Mr. Satish Nandana Hosur Sahadevappa** and his wife Smt. Jayashree Satish, have entered into Registered Sale Agreement dated: 12/12/2024 for purchase of below mentioned schedule properties with its owners Sri. Munimarappa, Mr. S. Pavan Kumar, Mr. S. Chethan, Smt. Mahadevamma, Ms. L. Asha Rani, Mr. L. Bharath, Smt. M. Shashikala, Ms. B.R. Likitha & Master B.R. Jeevan, all are Residents of Nettigere Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Pincode: 560082.

Any person/s, banks / financial Sectors / individual / authorities, Companies, Institutions etc., having any claim/s, right, share or interest over the schedule property shall file his/her/their/its objections in writing along with original documents with the undersigned **within 07 DAYS** from the date of this publication.

Any objection/s on and after 07 days, shall not be entertained and my clients shall proceed with the transactions presuming that there are no claim/s of anyone whatsoever over the same.

SCHEDULE

ITEM No.1: Land in Sy. No. 22/11 (old Sy. No. 22/1) situated at Nettigere Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk measuring 0-22.08 Guntas and bounded on: **East by:** Previously land in Sy. No. 22/2 belongs to Munimarappa (now Phoded as Sy. No. 22/16), **West by:** Previously land belongs to Dalamma (now Phoded as Sy. No. 22/10 belongs to Manjunath), **North by:** Suvaranamukhi Nala, **South by:** Road.

ITEM No.2: Land in Sy. No. 22/16 (Old Sy. No. 22/2) situated at Nettigere Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk measuring 0-20 Guntas and bounded on: **East by:** Previously land in Sy. No. 22/2 belongs to Parvathamma (now owned by Rudraiah), **West by:** Previously land in Sy. No. 22/1 belongs to Munimarappa (now Phoded as Sy. No.22/11), **North by:** Suvaranamukhi Nala, **South by:** Road.

VIVEKANANDA REDDY, Advocate
No.1135, 9th Cross Road, Sarathy Nagar, J.P Nagar, 8th Phase, 1st Block, Bengaluru-560108. Date: 17/09/2025

From Page One

Former MUDA chief arrested, produced in special court

The investigation till now has revealed his active involvement in money laundering, sources said, adding that further investigation is under progress. According to the ED, Dinesh Kumar had allegedly colluded with real estate business persons to "illegally and fraudulently allot MUDA sites to ineligible persons".

It may be mentioned here that two probes – one by the Lokayukta police and the other by a commission headed by retired High Court judge P.N. Desai – had given a clean chit to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his family, in connection with the allotment of 14 compensatory sites to his wife Parvathi. However, the Lokayukta police is conducting further inquiry into the alleged irregularities in the allotment of compensatory sites under the 50:50 scheme from 2016 to 2024, and an additional report in the regard is still awaited.

Though Dinesh Kumar and his predecessor D.B. Natesh had come under the lens of the ED after the Lokayukta registered a case against Mr. Siddaramaiah, his wife, and others, the High Court this January declared as 'unwarranted, illegal, and an abuse of the process of law' the actions of the ED in searching the residence of Natesh, a former MUDA Commissioner, and recording his statement, in connection with his role in the case of allotment of 14 sites to Ms. Parvathi.

Probe weight drop in idol gold coverings: Kerala HC

Court flags 'unexplained' reduction of over four kg in the weight of gold-plated copper covers on dwarapalakas at Sabarimala; says episode points to 'callous negligence and probable wrongdoing'

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday ordered a probe into the "reduction in weight" of the gold-plated coverings of dwarapalakas (guardian deities) at the Sabarimala temple.

A Bench of Justices Raja Vijayaraghavan V. and K.V. Jayakumar noted that records show that the gold-cladded copper plates of the idols weighed 42.8 kg when they were removed in 2019 for fresh gold-plating. However, when they were produced before the company in Chennai entrusted to carry out the gold-plating, their weight was 38.258 kg, the court said. It also noted that the plates were presented before the company more than a month and nine days after they were removed from the temple.

The gold-plated copper sheets of dwarapalakas at the Sabarimala temple were removed for fresh plating in 2019. LEJU KAMAL

An explanation is needed since the weight of the idol coverings fell by over four kg, the court said and directed the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer (a Superintendent of Police) of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), which manages the temple, to investigate the issue and submit a report within three weeks.

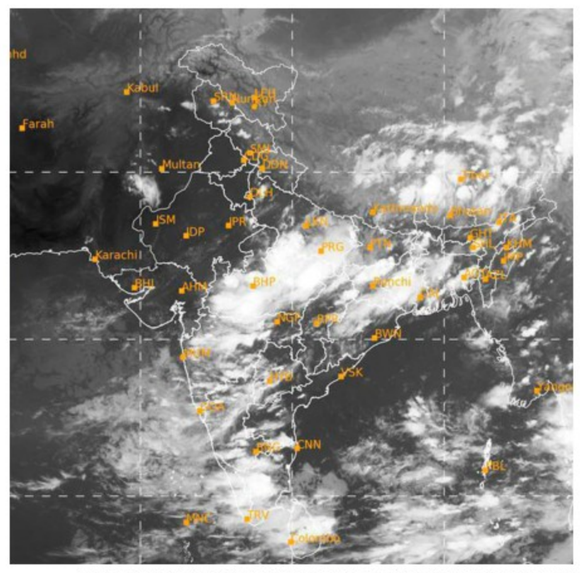
The court also asked why the weight of the coverings was not checked in 2019 prior to their reinstallation at the temple.

"There is a glaring and unexplained reduction of 4.54 kg. The only component susceptible to such diminution is the gold-cladding itself. This is an alarming discrepancy requiring a detailed inquiry. We also note that this reduction in weight was not reported by the TDB officials," it said.

The unexplained reduction in weight of the gold-cladded copper plates, the casual manner in which the valuable articles were submitted to the sponsor violating protocols, and the unjustified delay in their production before the Chennai firm – all reveal a disturbing pattern of callous negligence and probable wrongdoing, the court said and posted the case for hearing on September 30.
(With PTI inputs)

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, east Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Sub Himalayan West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.0	25.2	Kozhikode	0.8	33.5	25.8
Ahmedabad	0.1	34.8	26.5	Kurnool	—	31.0	25.2
Aizawl	—	31.2	21.0	Lucknow	—	30.5	25.7
Allahabad	0.5	34.0	25.4	Madurai	6	34.0	25.9
Bengaluru	—	26.8	21.1	Mangaluru	1.6	27.2	23.4
Bhopal	—	31.0	23.4	Mumbai	11	30.2	24.5
Bhubaneswar	—	32.8	25.2	Mysuru	—	31.0	20.0
Chandigarh	26	32.9	24.3	New Delhi	—	35.3	25.6
Chennai	—	34.2	24.1	Patna	1	30.6	26.5
Coimbatore	—	33.2	23.8	Port Blair	12	30.0	24.7
Dehradun	6	30.9	22.1	Puducherry	5	32.9	24.6
Gangtok	16	20.6	17.5	Pune	42.6	29.2	22.0
Goa	2	28.0	24.4	Raipur	27	32.2	24.6
Guwahati	58	30.8	24.9	Ranchi	—	29.2	22.6
Hubballi	—	28.0	23.0	Shillong	9	23.2	17.1
Hyderabad	1	30.8	23.0	Shimla	3.6	26.2	19.0
Imphal	—	30.6	20.5	Srinagar	—	30.6	15.6
Jaipur	—	35.2	26.3	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.4	25.2
Kochi	4	28.6	25.2	Tiruchi	—	34.7	25.4
Kohima	27	21.4	18.0	Vijayawada	0.8	32.7	26.4
Kolkata	6	33.8	26.1	Visakhapatnam	0.2	33.1	25.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.13	..12	47	 36	76	
Bengaluru	.11	..14	38	 28	...104	
Chennai	.15	..22	96	 17	50	
Delhi	.14	..77	33	... 179	...110	
Hyderabad	.12	..15	30	 54	...113	
Kolkata	...8	..18	27	 50	50	
Lucknow	...8	..60	70	 69	64	
Mumbai	.20	..35	26	 35	65	
Pune	..—	..37	45	 54	69	
Visakhapatnam	...8	..41	..8	 70	...104	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 172 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

With SC order, stage is set for Ayyappa meet

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to intervene against an order of the Kerala High Court allowing the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) to conduct the 'Global Ayyappa Sangamam' on the banks of the Pampa river near the famed Sabarimala temple, located in the Periyar Tiger Reserve.

The event is being held on September 20 in association with the State government.

In its interim order on September 11, the High Court allowed the event with certain conditions. It said the event did not spoil the sanctity of the temple or the river.

Ecological concerns

Lawyers for the petitioners, including a few devotees, said the government had approached the Kerala High Court in 2022 against an event conducted similarly near the river. They said the High Court had stopped the event and directed the removal of structures on the ground that it violated forest laws and disturbed wildlife.

The petitioners' counsel said the sangamam was a "pure commercial activity". "They cannot do it on the banks of the Pampa. The event is meant for collecting money. They can do it somewhere else, not Sabarimala. This event has no connection with religious or spiritual activities," the petitioners said.

Interim order, says SC

"We are not interfering in the order passed by the High Court as it is interim in nature. The High Court has described certain conditions to be followed to conduct the Global Ayyappa Sangamam. Needless to say, all questions are left open for being considered by the High Court," a Bench headed by Justice P.S. Narasimha.

Truck runs over food-delivery agent

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 25-year-old food-delivery executive was killed when a speeding truck ran over him after knocking down the scooter he was riding at Varthur Main Road on Tuesday night.

The deceased, identified as Burhanuddin Lashkar, was a native of Assam. He was on his way to deliver an order when the incident occurred. A severely injured Burhanuddin was shifted to the Vydehi Hospital, where he succumbed later.

The Whitefield Traffic Police rushed to the spot, arrested Md. Ilyas, the truck driver, and seized the truck for further investigation.

He was booked for rash and negligent driving.

Seven killed on the spot as tipper truck running on wrong side rams car in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
NELLORE

A tipper truck running on the wrong side of the road hit a car, killing seven people on the spot. The accident took place on the highway near Peramana village in Sangam mandal of Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh at 11 a.m. on Wednesday.

On being alerted by the local residents, a team from the Sangam police station rushed to the spot.

They took out the bodies from the car and sent them to Atmakur Government Hospital for post-mortem.

The deceased are all residents of Indukurupeta in Nellore city.

The damaged car that met with an accident near Sangam in SPSR Nellore district on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The accident occurred when the victims were reportedly on their way to Atmakur to visit their relatives undergoing treatment at a hospital.

The truck driver fled after the accident, abandoning the vehicle on the road. However, the police took him into custody later.

Expressing shock over the accident, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu asked the officials to conduct a thorough inquiry and take strict action against those responsible. He assured all support from the government to the bereaved families. Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan, in a statement, conveyed grief. He emphasised the need for stringent measures against heavy vehicles that often overspeed or ply on the wrong side of the road. "The authorities concerned must act firmly against reckless driving," he said.

Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy, Ministers Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, Ponguru Narayana and Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy expressed their shock. Mr. Ramanarayana Reddy urged the National Highways Authority of India to take immediate steps to lay a four-lane road in view of the frequent accidents in the area.

Empowerment of women Modi's priority: Sitharaman

Harish Gilai
VISAKHAPATNAM

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for launching yet another initiative for the welfare of women, noting that every programme introduced by him ensures that the benefits reach the women in particular.

Ms. Sitharaman, along with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, took part in the official launch of 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan' in the city on Wednesday, which was virtually launched by the Prime Minister from Madhya Pradesh his 75th birthday.

The CM and Nirmala Sitharaman at the launch of 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan' on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"I have been observing him since his days as Gujarat Chief Minister. On the first day of every academic year, all Ministers would take part in Shala Pravesh Utsav in villages, as part of which young girls were taken in a procession to their schools. Mr. Modi emphasised not only the importance of girls' education but also the role of government schools," she said.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said that Mr. Modi has always focussed on the upliftment of the poor and health of women. He listed out the welfare schemes for women such as 'Thalliki Vandhanam', 'Deepam', 'Sthree Shakti' schemes.

Priyank Kharge

Priyank Kharge condemns Yatnal's remarks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking exception to expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal's remarks that norms under rituals do not allow even a Dalit woman to offer floral tributes to Goddess Chamundeshwari in Mysuru, Minister Priyank Kharge questioned the silence of BJP leaders over such a casteist remarks.

Taking to social media, Mr. Kharge asked why the BJP leaders who had taken exception to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's statement that there is inequality in the Hindu religion had maintained silence over such remarks of Mr. Yatnal.

Mr. Kharge maintained that Mr. Yatnal's statement reflected the real stand of the RSS. Expressing concern over such regressive thinking, he wondered if Dalits were not part of the Hindu religion. "Was such thinking responsible for keeping President Droupadi Murmu out of the programme to mark the inauguration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya? Was this stand responsible for denying temple entry to the then President Ram Nath Kovind?" he asked.

Kerala seeks 'extra borrowing limit' amid GST losses, tariffs

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In a supplementary memorandum submitted to the 16th Finance Commission last week, Kerala has sought supplementary grants and eligibility for a "temporary extra borrowing limit" of 0.5% of the Gross State Domestic product (GSDP) to help it absorb the losses arising from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) slab rejig and the U.S. reciprocal tariffs.

Seeking supplementary grants under Article 275 of the Constitution, Kerala has asked the commission to "reassess" State finances and resource needs for the next five years when finalising its recommendations on vertical devolution and revenue deficit grants. The GST rate revision will further widen the gap between own and devolved revenues and the expenditure obligations of States. This needs to be compensated through a provision of grants, according to the memorandum.

"The present rate reduction will worsen the vertical fiscal imbalance (VFI) in the next quinquennial period starting from 2026-27. Since the compensation from cess levied on items falling under the 28% rate has stopped, an appropriate constitutional way to prevent worsening of VFI in the next quinquennium is to recommend further grants under Article 275, taking into consideration the immediate revenue loss to the State," according to the memorandum which Finance Minister Balagopal handed over to the commission last week.

Kerala has sought the extra borrowing limit of 0.5% of the GSDP in the medium term to help it absorb the consequences of the U.S. tariffs. This, as per the State, will be used for developing export-related infrastructure such as ports and cold chains and exploring new markets for exports. The memorandum notes that the revenue loss on account of the U.S. reciprocal tariff alone is estimated to be ₹2,400 crore during 2025-26.

'Periyar Tiger Reserve diverted funds without Kerala government's approval'

Sandeep Vellaram
IDUKKI

A recent report of the State Finance Inspection wing, operating under the Finance department, has exposed significant financial irregularities at the Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Thekkady, Kerala.

The report, a copy of which has been obtained by *The Hindu*, reveals that PTR authorities established a "Park Welfare Fund" (PWF) in 2004 and subsequently diverted tourism-related income into it without the requisite government approval. Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal has reportedly approved the inspection's recommendations and forwarded the report to Forests Minister A.K. Saseendran for immediate action.

The tourist boat landing area at the Periyar Tiger Reserve in Thekkady in Idukki district of Kerala. JOMON PAMPAVALLEY

The detailed inspection was initiated at the request of Mr. Saseendran following a complaint filed in February 2024 by the Kerala Non-Gazetted Employees Association (NGEA) regarding alleged financial mismanagement within the reserve.

Unauthorised fund

A core finding of the inspection is the unauthorised formation of the welfare fund. "The inspection revealed that there was no government order or direction to form the PWF."

The report highlights that "without a proper government order or rules, the entire tourism income was diverted to the park welfare fund, and its use was for purchases and other activities without proper rules." The report urged the Forest department to conduct an immediate verification and take swift action against the misuse of government funds. It also recommends a proper audit and an exploration of depositing a share of the income into the government treasury.

Letter and spirit

The Supreme Court did well to stay and uphold different Waqf Act provisions

The Supreme Court of India walked a tightrope in its judgment delivered on September 15, on the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, which amended the 1995 Waqf Act to regulate Muslim religious endowments, including vast land holdings across India. The Court put several controversial provisions on hold but refused to freeze the entire Act on grounds of constitutionality and other concerns. This turned out to be a rare instance where supporters and critics of the Act claimed vindication for their respective positions in the Court's order. The government views the amendments as necessary to curb the alleged misuse and corruption under the earlier Waqf Act, while critics, including the Congress, see it as arbitrary interference in the affairs of the Muslim community. The Court has now stayed the requirement that only Muslims practising for five years can create waqf, and the power vested in District Collectors to adjudicate waqf property disputes. It also capped non-Muslim members to four in the Central Waqf Council and three in State Boards, down from potentially 12 and seven, respectively. The Court also directed that CEOs of Waqf Boards should preferably be Muslims. The removal of the provision for waqf-by-user recognition in the amended law has been upheld as valid by the Court, with the caveat that waqf properties registered as on April 8, 2025, under such a claim remain protected. Restrictions on waqf status for protected monuments and tribal lands were deemed constitutionally valid.

While the order diffuses the conflict for now, the larger question of balancing religious autonomy and state regulation continues – and that is better tackled through building consensus within and between communities. Autonomy claims cannot be a facade for misuse of community resources by its own leaders; nor can any group of people lay claim over public resources in the name of faith. The state has not only the right but also the responsibility to ensure that people are not taken for a ride by anyone. The trouble arises when the state discriminates between religious groups in the application of this principle. The Court rightly went with the philosophy of presumption of constitutionality of laws passed by Parliament. But partisan politics of an extreme nature can delegitimise representational democracy. The government must consciously negotiate with the Opposition in Parliament to ensure that the laws enacted have the widest political and social acceptance. When laws affecting particular communities are made, they should be taken into confidence. None of this is easy, and complete consensus is never possible, but attempts should be made in that direction.

Genocide in Gaza

India should speak up against Israel's atrocities

The UN Commission of Inquiry, after a multi-year investigation, has concluded that Israeli authorities have committed genocide in Gaza. The finding is hardly surprising as the world's leading rights organisations, including two Israeli groups, and genocide scholars, had already accused Israel of committing what is one of the gravest crimes in international law. Yet, the finding would lend weight to such reports and resonate before the International Court of Justice, which is hearing genocide charges against Israel, and the International Criminal Court, which has issued an arrest warrant for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The UN Commission found "reasonable grounds" to conclude that four of the five genocidal acts – killing members of a community, serious bodily and mental harm, actions aimed at destroying the group, and preventing births – have been carried out since the war began following Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack. Israel, which denies allegations of genocide and war crimes, has killed at least 65,000 Palestinians in Gaza in 23 months, many of them women and children. "The responsibility for these atrocity crimes lies with Israeli authorities at the highest echelons who have orchestrated a genocidal campaign with the specific intent to destroy the Palestinian group in Gaza," says the panel's leader, Navi Pillay.

It is tragically ironic that Israel, a nation built by the survivors of the Shoah, is committing genocide against Palestinians. On the day the UN Commission released its report, Israel launched yet another ground offensive in the famine-stricken Gaza City. Israel's responses to reports of war crimes and mass killings have invariably been further escalations, killing and displacing even more Palestinians. The war, prolonged by Mr. Netanyahu for his political survival, has left a stain on Israel's national compass and deepened its global isolation. In the weeks ahead, France, the U.K. and several other countries are expected to recognise Palestinian sovereignty, while the European Commission has proposed to suspend trade concessions with Israel and sanction extremist Ministers. Yet, Israel, shielded by the U.S., shows little concern. The Trump administration is unlikely to turn up the heat on its closest ally. But Europe should start treating Israel as what it has become – a rogue state with genocidal intent and actions. India, once a champion of the Palestinian cause, has so far refrained from directly criticising the Jewish nation. But it should realise that an uncontrollable, expansionist Israel, blowing international law to smithereens, is not in India's national or regional interests. New Delhi should speak up against the genocide and use its leverage to help bring the war to an end.

A judicial nudge following stuck legislative business

P.D.T. Achary

is former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

The Supreme Court of India has heard arguments on the Presidential Reference in respect of the Governor's powers under Article 200 pertaining to the assent to Bills passed by the State legislature. Earlier, a two-judge Bench, headed by Justice J.B. Pardiwala, had fixed a timeline of three months for the Governor to take a final decision on a Bill submitted to him for assent. The same timeline was made applicable to the President of India also.

The time limit fixed by the Court has raised eyebrows in the government as well in the media. The general refrain from a section of the media was that the Court cannot direct the Governor or the President, who are high constitutional authorities, to act within a specified time when the Constitution does not have any such time frame. The government had also taken this line of argument in the Court.

Reiteration of a recognised principle

Article 200 of the Constitution has four options for the Governor when a Bill is presented to him after being passed by the State legislature. These options are to assent to the Bill; to withhold assent; return the Bill to the Assembly with a request to reconsider the Bill as a whole or certain clauses, or reserve it for the consideration of the President.

A very important question which arose in the context of the Governor's role in dealing with a Bill after it is passed by the legislature is whether the Governor has any discretion in the exercise of any of the options mentioned above. Under Article 163, the Governor is required to exercise his functions only on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers except in matters specified by or under the Constitution. The Court has, in cases from *Shamsher Singh vs State of Punjab* (1974), to *Nabam Rebia* (2016), made it clear that the Governor cannot perform any of his executive functions except on the advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister. The Sarkaria Commission and Punchhi Commission too reiterated this well-recognised constitutional principle.

The point that has been emphasised in all the judgments of the Court and the judicial commissions is that the Governor is just a constitutional head and that the real executive power of the state is vested in the elected government. Therefore, the Governor cannot act independently.

So, the question of crucial importance in this context is whether the Governor, while exercising any of the options under Article 200, can act in his discretion. The answer to this question will become clear when we take a close look at the Government of India Act, 1935. Section 75 of this Act is substantially the same as Article 200. Section 75 uses the words "the governor in his discretion" which means that giving assent or withholding it or sending the Bill back to the legislature or reserving it for the consideration of the Governor General is done by the Governor in his discretion.

This Section has been virtually reproduced in Article 200 but omits the words "in his discretion". This would show that the Constitution-makers wanted the Governor to exercise the power under Article 200 only on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

> The top court's move to fix a time limit for a Governor to take a final decision on a Bill must be interpreted as a move to smoothen the legislative process

The issue of 'discretion'

The question of discretion of the Governor under Article 200 is one that has been dealt with by the Court in a number of cases. Surprisingly, the Court, in *Shamsher Singh*, discovered a discretionary power in the Governor under Article 200. It held that he must exercise it to the best of his judgement and should pursue a course which is not detrimental to the state.

But the Court, in *The State of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor Of Tamilnadu and Anr.* (2025), did not accept the idea of a Governor exercising his discretion in withholding assent or reserving the Bill for the consideration of the President. It says, "if the power to withhold assent to Bills or to reserve them for the consideration of the President is construed as falling within the exclusive discretionary domain of the governor who would be free to decide a course of action notwithstanding the aid and advice of the council of ministers it would have the potential of turning him into a super constitutional figure having the power to bring to a complete halt the operation of the legislative machinery in the state. The governor cannot be vested with such power...."

The Sarkaria Commission, while granting that, normally, in the discharge of the functions under Article 200, the Governor must abide by the advice of his Council of Ministers, said that in rare and exceptional cases, he may act in the exercise of his discretion especially when the provisions of the Bill are patently unconstitutional.

While divergence of opinion exists in Indian judicial decisions, according to D.D. Basu, the renowned constitutional authority, in the United Kingdom, the sovereign has no power to withhold a Bill without the advice of the Council of Ministers. The deliberate omission of the word 'discretion' in Article 200 of the Constitution of India compels the conclusion that this Article does not permit discretion of any kind by the Governor while dealing with a Bill passed by the legislature.

The next question is about the time limit prescribed by the Court within which the Governor and the President are required to take a final decision on a Bill. From the arguments made on behalf of the Union Government, it is clear that it has strong objections to the time limit. It is true that no time limit has been prescribed by Articles 200 or 201. It is obvious that the Court fixed the time limit because some of the Governors had sat on Bills for years together without exercising any of the options available under Article 200. The question is whether the Constitution permits such a course of action. It does not.

So, is there no remedy available to States whose important Bills go in limbo? When a Governor sits on Bills for years, should not the Union intervene and direct the Governor to act in accordance with the Constitution? Article 355 can be creatively interpreted to mean that the Union Government can intervene to ensure that the government of a State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Thwarting the legislative process by the Governor by sitting on Bills passed by the legislature for years creates a situation where in the government cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the constitution. Article 355 imposes a duty upon the Union to direct the Governor to perform his constitutional duty under Article 200.

A remedy for what is now a reality

In no case has the Union intervened to direct a Governor to clear the Bills that he sat on for years. That has forced the Supreme Court to fix the time limit now. The Constitution makers could not have visualised such conduct on the part of the Governors. But now that it has become a reality, a remedy has to be found. By fixing the time limit, the Court has smoothened the legislative process.

The judgments in the two recent cases, namely, *State of Punjab vs Principal Secretary to the Governor* (2023) and *The State of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor Of Tamilnadu and Anr.* are in fact landmark judgments which struck a blow for federalism. Judges interpret the Constitution and clarify the legal ambiguities, and in that process also create new rules. Article 21 was a prisoner of the literal interpretation since 1950 (*A.K. Gopalan*) till the American doctrine of due process was imported into it and expanded its ambit in *Maneka Gandhi* (1978).

Therefore, it is quite out of place to argue that judges, by interpreting the existing provisions to meet a new situation which posed a serious challenge to the constitutional order, are amending the Constitution. The fallacy in this argument is too obvious to miss.

Let Geiger counters, not guesses, shape Iran actions

Syed Akbaruddin

was an international civil servant at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) from 2006 to 2011

A new nuclear crisis is taking shape. After the United States's strikes on Iran's underground nuclear site at Fordow, in June 2025, Britain, France, and Germany (E3), on August 28, triggered the "snapback" clause of the 2015 nuclear deal citing violations by Tehran. The world has not much time to choose between diplomacy and escalation.

If this window closes without agreement, the United Nations will restore earlier measures that call for a halt to enrichment, tighten controls on arms transfers, restrict finance and shipping, and re-designate individuals linked to Iran's nuclear and missile programmes.

The stakes are global. Iran rejects the move as unlawful. Washington sees it as a test of non-proliferation. Europe views multilateral commitments on trial. Russia and China seek delay and leverage. Israel and the Gulf states weigh warning times and war risks. Oil importers watch prices. Shipping companies reassess insurance. Banks calculate exposure. For India, the anxieties are sharper still. Its extended neighbourhood must remain stable, oil must keep flowing through the Strait of Hormuz, and the safety of eight million Indian citizens in West Asia must be ensured.

The vacuum of facts

These concerns are magnified by the absence of verified information. Since the strikes on Iranian facilities, no one has walked the rubble with a dosimeter or tested a coolant line. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) staff left Iran after its Parliament passed legislation halting cooperation without approval from the Supreme National Security Council. Rumour has replaced measurement. Every capital has drawn its own conclusions while global attention shifted elsewhere.

> India can take the lead in ensuring technical IAEA access to Iran's nuclear programme as it will anchor negotiations to verifiable data

IAEA access is not a formality but the hinge of diplomacy. Verification replaces speculation with facts, sets a baseline on Iranian stockpiles, and anchors negotiations to data, not fears. Regular IAEA updates on Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, under Russian control, calmed jittery markets. A comparable presence in Iran could steady expectations and reduce volatility. If verification is framed as a sovereign choice, rather than a concession, it would strengthen Iran's claim that the programme is civilian while upholding the non-proliferation bargain.

Yet, Tehran's reservations are not unfounded. Iranian officials argue that sovereignty and security outweigh treaty obligations. They fear inspectors may, even unintentionally, enable targeting of sensitive sites. This is not paranoia. Strikes by Israel and the U.S. in the past closely followed IAEA disclosures. Such episodes have hardened parliamentary resistance. There is also the calculus of leverage. Revealing what survives of the programme could weaken Iran's hand in bargaining with Washington.

Since the E3 triggered its snapback, some Iranian legislators have urged withdrawal from the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty. That would strip the IAEA of legal authority to inspect Iranian sites. The crisis would then enter uncharted territory with sanctions hardening and the military option returning to the fore.

Where India fits in

India cannot stand aside. As a long-standing member of the IAEA Board, with ties across divides, it is well placed to assist. As a part of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), India, at the Tianjin summit, has joined other nations in condemning the military strikes by Israel and the U.S. against Iran.

Within the SCO and BRICS – both of which include Iran – India can support a diplomatic call to restore technical IAEA access in a form that protects operational details while ensuring transparency. If framed as a sovereign choice by Tehran, and backed by the Global South, it may gain Iranian approval. India can also contribute technical capacity. Its IAEA-certified Tarapur facility could handle sample analysis under safeguards, showing that responsible stakeholders can provide practical support in moments of crisis. These contributions would not make headlines, but they could shift the balance toward diplomacy at a time when the risk of escalation is high.

A closing window

The window for diplomacy is narrowing fast. By allowing IAEA inspectors into Bushehr to monitor the refuelling of the nuclear power plant last month, Iran has offered a small opening. Also, last week, on September 9, 2025, , the IAEA and Iran signed an agreement in Cairo, Egypt. If this extends to bombed sites, the E3 may respond by pausing the snapback. Such choices could shift the momentum back to diplomacy. The alternative is grim – sanctions, standoffs, and a cycle of strike and counterstrike.

For India, the choice is clear. Backing verification protects its interests in West Asia, its citizens abroad, and its energy security. It also marks India as a responsible global power. The way forward is simple. It is time to let Geiger counters, and not guesses, decide Iran's nuclear programme.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Genocide in Gaza'

The United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry says that "genocide is occurring in Gaza". However, the Commission does not speak on behalf of the world body (Front page, September 17). The accusation of genocide in Gaza, by Israel, was proven when the Defence Minister of Israel declared that "Gaza is burning" (World page, September 17). Why are world leaders keeping mum in the wake of this catastrophic military action by Israel? What is the UN Security Council doing? The U.S. President is silent too. There is no control over war-mongers.

D. Sethuraman,
Chennai

Israel does not seem to be in the mood to relent, instead, blaming world agencies for a partisan approach. It seems that the annihilation of innocents is not going to end soon. History will never pardon nations that are siding with Israel. It is very unfortunate that innocents including children are being killed.

Brij B. Goyal,
Ludhiana, Punjab

We now know that Israel 'is committing genocide in Gaza' and 'Gaza is burning'. The implication is that the superpowers are supporting the grave massacre in Gaza being initiated by a blood-thirsty Israel. Talk of creating a Palestinian state is an eye wash. What a horrible plight it is for the people of Gaza.

A. Kaja Nazimudeen,
Eruvadi, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

Himalayan catastrophe

The floods in Dehradun show, once again, how vulnerable the Himalayas are. Much of this is not just nature's fury but also the result of unplanned development on weak slopes, deforestation and encroachment along rivers. What is needed is strict control over construction, restoring forests, better warning systems and more research on rainfall and glacier changes.

A. Myilsami,
Coimbatore

Party rumblings

One wonders why there is such a din over the removal of Anbumani Ramadoss by his father, Dr. Ramadoss, from the PMK. The internal problems within the party were never an issue. Heavens will not fall if there is a change in leadership.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

Why Cypress matters

India's IT industry is at a turning point, where speed, accuracy and reliability in software delivery are essential. In this context, automation testing tools such as Cypress are proving far more effective than older frameworks such as Selenium. For companies adopting agile and DevOps practices, this efficiency is invaluable. As India positions itself as a global digital leader, it is vital for businesses to train their workforce in modern automation tools.

Vivek M. Jain,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

In a report, "Rising obesity, children's exposure to ultra-processed foods", the fourth bar of Chart 2 should have read 16 instead of 103 ('Data Point' – Opinion Page, September 16, 2025).

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Welfare at the mercy of the machine

Rajendran Narayanan

is a social scientist and is also affiliated with LibTech India, a Centre based in Collaborative Research and Dissemination (CORD)

Dipa Sinha

is a social scientist

In American novelist, Kurt Vonnegut's novel, *Player Piano*, the author imagines a society where human labour is displaced by machines. Published in 1952, the novel shows how high levels of automation create an extremely polarised society with engineers running the machines on one side and the working class at the mercy of machines. In the novel, Finnerty, a brilliant engineer, upon realising how such automation results in dehumanisation, wryly remarks, "If only it weren't for the people, the goddamned people, always getting tangled up in the machinery, earth would be an engineer's paradise." Seven decades later, we are witnessing how welfare delivery in India is turning into a software "engineer's paradise" with a technocratic union government and its digital automation tools on the one side and frontline workers at the mercy of these tools on the other. The latest of these is the mandatory use of Facial Recognition Software (FRS) in Anganwadis.

Anganwadis were first established in 1975 to address child malnutrition as part of the Integrated Child Development Scheme. There are about 14.02 lakh anganwadis in India and every centre is meant to have at least one Anganwadi worker (AWW) and one Anganwadi helper, who are women from the local community. Along with preschool and other services, each Anganwadi is entrusted with providing legally mandated Take Home Rations (THR) for children under three years and for pregnant and lactating women (under the National Food Security Act, 2013).

Aim of verification, hurdles

In 2021, the Union government launched the Poshan Tracker, a centralised application platform, to monitor nutrition initiatives. The AWW has to install the Poshan tracker app on her smartphone and periodically upload the nutritional status of children. The app requires regular updates which many AWWs are not equipped to do. From July 1, the THR for pregnant/lactating women will not be given unless these women rights-holders authenticate their faces through the FRS, which is now integrated with this app. To get to this stage, e-KYC has to be first completed, where the woman's Aadhaar and biometric details are entered and verified by OTP. The purpose of these appears to be two-fold. First, that a child or woman is not faking to be somebody else to get food. Second, that a child's food is not stolen by the AWW or anyone. That is, children and AWW are pre-supposed to be guilty of wrongdoing and not pre-supposed to be innocent; which is at odds with the principles of natural justice where one is innocent until proven guilty.

Testimonies of several AWWs underscore the chaos spawned by the use of the FRS. Many phone numbers have changed, the phone is usually not with the woman, and so there are trust issues in sharing an OTP. Even once the e-KYC is completed, there are errors in matching the faces recorded in the software for reasons unclear to the AWWs. Further, the phones of AWWs do not have the capacity to process such heavy data and often hang. Network connectivity is often patchy resulting in large delays. Errors in face matching means that a photograph has to be shot multiple times, causing annoyance to all involved. Even though the AWW personally knows all the women and children concerned, and can vouch that they are authentic, she cannot give them food when the app fails to authenticate as she does not have the power to override the app. Being frontline functionaries means that AWWs are also at the front end of facing the ire of the 'authentic women' who are unable to have their faces authenticated.

Any intervention must be introduced to address the main problems people are facing in receiving their entitlements. In the context of THR, there are at least five major problems: poor quality of rations;irregular supply of THR; the budget for THR for children which is ₹8 per day a child has not been revised since 2018; corruption in the granting of contracts, and supply by large commercial entities despite orders by the Supreme Court of India since 2004 that the production and distribution should be decentralised and preferably through self-help groups and *mahila* mandals. Women faking pregnancy or children faking to get rations is not one of the core problems here. However, this is what the FRS appears to be solving. Similar to technological interventions in other welfare programmes, the FRS has also been introduced without any consultation with Anganwadi staff. If the government has any reports on massive fraud with "fake beneficiaries" being registered, these must first be made public for scrutiny. The best way to verify people in anganwadis is through community monitoring.

In perspective

Technologies such as the FRS have usually been used in criminal investigations. While there are several concerns in using FRS in such investigations too, using such technologies to identify women and children from vulnerable communities appears to treat them as criminals and not as citizens. In fact, the FRS is banned even in San Francisco, U.S., the Mecca of digital technologies. Early childhood care cannot be held hostage till a software becomes better at recognising mothers. Extending Vonnegut's caution, women and children should not become laboratories in an "engineer's paradise". After all, what is at stake is a choice between authenticating and the authentic, between dehumanising and dignity, and between fracturing and fraternity.

The views expressed are personal

Rations in Anganwadis should not depend on Face Recognition Software

Hitting all the right notes

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin steals BJP's thunder in felicitation of maestro Ilaiyaraaja

STATE OF PLAY

B. Kolappan
kolappan.b@thehindu.co.in

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M.K. Stalin, has scored a point. By taking it upon himself and the State government to honour maestro Ilaiyaraaja, on a mass scale, on his completion of 50 years in the film industry and for composing a symphony, Mr. Stalin has focused on what the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) failed to capitalise on. Instead of feting Ilaiyaraaja, a quintessential Tamil icon, and showing that if he can be a supporter of the BJP and a follower of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, so can the average Tamil, who is pious and religious, the party has done little on the ground to build on Ilaiyaraaja's popularity and acceptance.

It is not as if the BJP has not accorded Ilaiyaraaja his due. The party nominated him to the Rajya Sabha, invited him to perform at both the Kashi Tamil Sangamam (2022), and at Gangaikonda Cholapuram (July 2025) which Mr. Modi visited to mark 1,000 years since Chola King Rajendra I's conquest of the North. But the BJP's inertia in felicitating or announcing the conferment of the Bharat Ratna on Ilaiyaraaja has given Mr. Stalin a leg up and reinforce the point that the maestro transcends narrow barriers and belongs to the world of music. At a function in Chennai on September 13, Mr. Stalin made an appeal to the BJP government to confer the Bharat Ratna on Ilaiyaraaja. It is an appeal that the BJP cannot ignore.

Ilaiyaraaja said, "I am overwhelmed and overjoyed by the scale of the event...Why such love? Perhaps it is because of my music. Only he (Mr Stalin) can answer... Perhaps he considered my symphony [to be] a great achievement. I believe he must have felt [that] it was the duty of the State government to honour a Tamil who has gained worldwide fame."

It was a masterstroke by Mr. Stalin. In March this year, Ilaiyaraaja had travelled to London to release his new composition – a symphony that was to be performed by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The moment this became known, Mr. Stalin visited the maestro to offer his greetings. The government also organised a reception for the music maestro on his return. Ilaiyaraaja revealed that he had expressed his desire to Mr. Stalin to bring the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to Tamil Nadu, and recalled Mr. Stalin's reaction – "Yes, it can be done."

Mr. Stalin is aware that Ilaiyaraaja, despite his political leanings, is a source of Tamil pride and represents cultural capital. When Ilaiyaraaja was trolled on social media by DMK supporters after he described the consecration of the Ram Temple as a "historic day" and praised Mr. Modi, Mr. Stalin intervened to stop the campaign. All his fans may not share his political ideology, but they will not tolerate any criticism made against Ilaiyaraaja. It was Mr. Stalin's late father and the longest-serving Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M. Karunanidhi, who had conferred the title *'Isaignani'* on Ilaiyaraaja. The musician, whose birthday falls on June 3 – the same day as Karunanidhi's – was astute to move the day to June 2.

At the felicitation ceremony, Ilaiyaraaja, who would usually begin his concert with an invocation of Goddess Mookambiga, by rendering *Janani Janani*, instead chose a film song, *Amuthe Tamiley Azhagiye Mozhiye Enathuriyere* ('Nectar-like Tamil is a beautiful language and my life'). It struck a chord with the audience which included Mr. Stalin, his cabinet colleagues and officials.

A day later, Ilaiyaraaja acceded to Mr. Stalin's request – that he should compose music for Sangam period literature. Ilaiyaraaja's announcement has been well appreciated.

After his close association with the Communist Movement – his elder brother, Pavalar Varadharajan was a singer popularising the ideology and politics, with Ilaiyaraaja and their other brothers as instrumentalists – Ilaiyaraaja was politically neutral, but retained an identity of being a devotee of Ramana Maharshi of Tiruvannamalai.

Ilaiyaraaja and his brothers are admirers of writer and Communist-turned-Congress supporter Jayakanthan, another Tamil icon. Jayakanthan was a bitter critic of the Dravidian Movement, but Karunanidhi succeeded in winning him over, stunning Jayakanthan's admirers.

Mr. Stalin appears to have taken the cue from his father and done the same thing with Ilaiyaraaja, living up to the dictum of C.N. Annadurai, the founder of DMK, that "jasmine smells sweet even if it blooms in another's garden."

The hard truth about out-of-pocket health expenditure

NHA estimates of out-of-pocket health spending need wider validation beyond a single survey base

DATA POINT

Indranil
Montu Bose

In India, direct out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) by households is the main source of financing for health care. In an OOPE-based system, when a family member falls ill, we either dip into our savings, sell assets, or borrow to meet health-care expenditures. If one is poor, the option is either to forgo care and die or get pushed into further destitution due to the costs of care. Children are taken out of school, women work longer hours to earn a little more and make do with meagre meal(s). As families cope with health shocks, the vicious cycle of poverty and ill-health intensifies.

India's National Health Account (NHA) estimates show a declining trend in OOPE as a proportion of total health expenditure as well as GDP. Various recent policy initiatives of the government of the day are being credited for this decline. A decline in OOPE, if materialised, is a positive development. However, it is prudent to scrutinise the estimates derived from the National Sample Surveys (NSS) before jumping to convenient conclusions.

We conducted a comparative analysis of the NHA estimates with other large sample surveys and National Income Accounts estimates. Our results point to the need for revisiting the argued decline in OOPE and to adopt a more cautious and comparative approach.

NHA captures spending on health by various sources, tracks the schemes through which these funds are channelised to various providers in a given period of time for a given geography. It derives OOPE estimates from various household surveys, mainly using the National Sample Survey (NSS). For some components not covered under NSS, the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) and private databases on the sale of medicines are used. The latest health round of the NSS was for 2017-18 (75th round), which forms the basis of the 2017-18 NHA estimates. The NHA 2017-18 reported a steep decline in OOPE as a proportion of health expenditure, from 64% in 2013-14 and 49% in 2017-18. For subsequent rounds, OOPE estimates are an extrapolation of 2017-18 estimates, adjusting them for price rise. For the latest year of NHA (2021-22), the share has come down to 39% (**Chart 1**).

The decline in OOPE, based on the NSS 75th round, however, needs further scrutiny. This could largely be on account of a decline in ailment reporting and utilisation of hospitalisation services, rather than any reduction in the cost of health-care services. Sources such as Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) show a much higher level of utilisation of hospitalisation services by the elderly.

One of the latest sources of OOPE estimates is the Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES)-2022-23. This data show that OOPE as a share of household consumption expenditure (HCE) is on a steady rise. Between 2011-12 and 2022-23, the share of OOPE in HCE has increased to 5.9% from 5.5% in rural areas and from 6.9% to 7.1% in urban areas (**Chart 2**). If OOPE had truly declined in this period, its share in HCE should have also declined. An increased proportion of the household budget going for health indicates that health care is becoming more expensive.

The NHA OOPE estimates have not been able to capture the massive distress caused by COVID-19. As you would note, the NHA numbers show a secular decline. Since none of the NSS rounds has data for the COVID-19 period, we have used the Consumer Pyramids Household Survey conducted by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CPHS-CMIE), which surveys each household at least thrice a year. Since the CMIE has its limitations, it may not be compared with the NSS in absolute. To make them comparable, we have indexed both the CMIE and NHA OOPE absolute numbers as 100 (2016-17) and traced the trend over time. The NHA numbers show a steep decline in 2017-18 and then a very gradual crawling up (**Chart 3**). In comparison, the CMIE estimates show a steep decline during the COVID-19 years and then a 'V' shaped increase in OOPE. Current NHA estimates miss out these fluctuations completely, hence seeming unrealistic.

The NHA is supposed to be a satellite account of the National Income Account (NIA). NIA estimates private final consumption expenditure on health as well. NIA estimates of the share of household spending on health in GDP depict a steady increase over these years, while NHA numbers show a decline (**Chart 4**). Apart from direct OOPE, households also spend on insurance premiums. Even if we take both into account, we still see a steep unexplained decline in NHA estimates, while NIA estimates show a continuous rise.

Current NHA estimates remain conveniently confined within their methodological limitations and help draw politically motivated policy conclusions. The problem is that it depends heavily on one data set, which, for various reasons, has not been able to capture the reality pertaining to the hardships that households are facing in seeking health care. While medicine prices are skyrocketing, all other evidence indicates that health care is getting costlier.

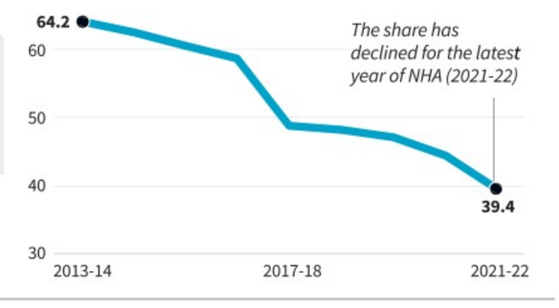
The NSS Morbidity round remains one of the most important sources of details of how and where households spend money. All data sources have their limitations and challenges, including the ones we have sighted. The NSS health round estimates need to be complemented with various other data sources and methods to produce more realistic macro health policy numbers for national health accounts.

Unseen expense

The data for the charts were sourced from NHA, National Health Systems Resource Centre, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, National Income Accounts, PFCE

Indranil is a Professor at the School of Government and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana. Montu Bose is an Assistant Professor at the School of Health Systems Studies, TISS, Mumbai. With CMIE data inputs from Akarsh CO, Research Associate, O.P. Jindal Global University.

Chart 1: Out-of-pocket expenditure as a share of total health expenditure



The share has declined for the latest year of NHA (2021-22)

Source: National Health Accounts; National Health Systems Resource Centre

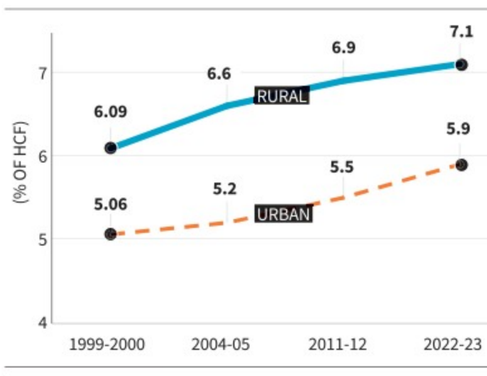
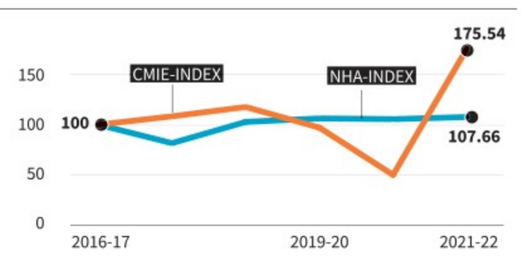


Chart 2: Out-of-pocket expenditure as a share of household consumption expenditure

Source: Various rounds of National Service Scheme-Household Consumption Survey

Chart 3: Trends in out-of-pocket expenditure indices derived from CMIE and NHA estimates



Source: National Health Authority-index

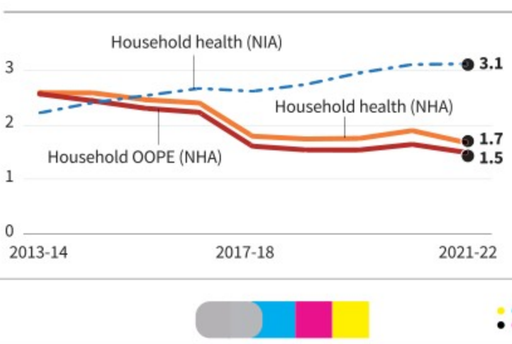


Chart 4: Expenditure on health and out-of-pocket costs as share of GDP

Source: NHSRC; National Income Accounts, Private Final Consumption Expenditure

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 18, 1975

Dual-Colour for Cars Averts Collisions

NEW DELHI, Sept. 17.

Dual-colour cars are safer and less prone to be run into by other drivers. This is stated in a police journal report prepared by Mr. Gautam Kaul of the Delhi Police after studying data from four countries. According to the report, white is the safest for a single colour coat while black can be deceptive because of its poor light reflection particularly at night. The report says that the police had suggested to the Indian car manufacturers to bring about colour changes but the manufacturers pleaded inability because a double-colour coat would increase the prices and the consumers generally had preferences for certain colours. The report says that for good visibility at night a vehicle should reflect at least half of an approaching vehicle's lights.

Eight colours come upto this standard and they are: white (84 per cent), cream (70 per cent), ivory (67 per cent), light pink (66.5 per cent), yellow (57 per cent), flesh (51.6 per cent), buff (51.5 per cent) and light grey (51.5 per cent).

It said that black colour could be very effective in increasing visibility if used in combination with these colours. The report quoted a study by the University of California (USA) which showed that the colour of an approaching car "definitely influenced" a driver's judgment of how far away the vehicle was. – UNI.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 18, 1925

Dietary Allowances in Madras Hospitals

Committee Recommends An Increase

The Hospital Dietary Charges Committee presided over by the Surgeon-General has concluded its sittings. It is understood that they have recommended an increase of annas 2 in the rate allowed for the diet of the Indian as well as Anglo-Indian patients admitted to the State Hospitals in the city, which increase will, it is expected, cover the extra expenditure entailed by the higher price for which some of the important articles for diet such as bread, milk and chicken were contracted for this year.

The increase is from 8 and 10 As for Indian and Anglo-Indian diet to 10 and 12 As, respectively.

It is also understood that the Committee has recommended that in future the Superintendent of the different hospitals should be given the power to contract for the supply of the necessary dietary articles independent of the Surgeon-General who this year, had contracted for all the hospitals in the city.

From Page One

Amid U.S. tariffs row, PM pushes local production

"Terrorists from Pakistan had destroyed the *sindoor* [vermillion] on our sisters. We have destroyed terrorist hideouts through Operation Sindoor. This is new India, it is not scared of anyone's nuclear threats. It enters [the enemy's] house and strikes," the Prime Minister said.

He also noted that the new GST rates will come into effect from September 22, coinciding with the first day of Navratri. "We need to launch a campaign promoting Swadeshi. I will urge the State government to put up signs in every shop detailing Swadeshi goods. Buyers will also know that they are buying Swadeshi," he added.

Mr. Modi launched the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan (SNSPA), a Union government initiative aimed at improving women's health through comprehensive screenings and services.

"Its goal is to ensure that no woman falls victim to any disease due to lack of information. There are diseases that women are most vulnerable to. It's crucial to detect these diseases early. Serious diseases like cancer can be detected early. The women of our country continue to bless me. Therefore, these programs are for them," he said, urging women to avail free check-up and medication services.

The campaign will run until Gandhi Jayanti on October 2.

The PM MITRA park in Dhar is one of seven such establishments approved by the Union Ministry of Textiles. The other sites are in Tamil Nadu's Virudhnagar, Telangana's Warangal, Gujarat's Navasari, Karnataka's Kalaburagi, Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow, and Maharashtra's Amravati.

Based on the 5F theme – farm to fibre to factory to fashion to foreign – the initiative aims to boost India's textile manufacturing and exports. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav recently said proposals worth more than ₹23,000 crore have been received from 114 textile companies for the Dhar park.

SC proposes jail term for stubble burners

The exchange came after *amicus curiae*, senior advocate Aparajita Singh, pointed out that despite "humongous" efforts and funds spent by the Centre, farmers continued to burn stubble, creating a toxic haze across northern States each winter. She said the situation returned to square one every season despite repeated Supreme Court directions.

"If you really have any intention to protect the environment, why don't you?" the CJI pressed.

Ms. Bhati replied that the government's approach was to take farmers "along with us".

"Do take them along with you, but ultimately, you should have a mechanism to deal with stubble. You should give them the carrot and then the stick.... You cannot be swayed solely because of a five-year exercise [elections]," the CJI responded.

Ms. Bhati clarified that the policy was not dictated by vote bank politics. "It is not because of the five-yearly exercise. It is simply a matter of policy for us," she submitted.

The Chief Justice noted that while farmers hold a special place in the country, they too have a responsibility. "It is because of them that we get what we eat but that does not mean they should not be brought in to protect the environment of the country. We are not saying you penalise farmers as a routine, do it as a sample to send the message across," he said.

Ms. Bhati said the Centre would file a detailed status report reflecting the ground situation in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

"You should take all the States aboard and then come up with a uniform policy [on stubble-burning]. You consider doing that, or we will issue mandamus. You cannot look at this problem only in relation to the five-year exercise," the CJI cautioned the government.

EU-India partnership set for upgrade

EU's top diplomat Kaja Kallas releases strategic agenda on trade, technology, security, defence and climate; however, India's military exercises with Russia and its continued purchase of Russian oil are seen in Brussels as potential obstacles to the deepening of the relationship with New Delhi

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The European Union has set out a plan to upgrade its strategic ties with India, even as it warned that India's military exercises with Russia and its purchase of Russian oil are risks to the growing strategic ties between Brussels and New Delhi.

The European Commission and the EU's top diplomat Kaja Kallas released 'A New Strategic EU-India Agenda' on Wednesday in Brussels, and urged the European Parliament and Council (i.e., the heads of member states) to adopt it.

Ms. Kallas called India a "crucial" partner for the EU, as she outlined the strategy that encompassed trade, technology, security, defence and climate. She was speaking at a televised press conference in Brussels on Wednesday.

The document declared that "the EU and India have the potential and determination to shape one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century".

Brussels and New Delhi are in the midst of negotiating a free trade agreement (FTA), with the EU's trade chief Maroš Šefčovič visiting New Delhi last week for talks with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

"We are also negotiating an agreement of exchange of classified information and deepening ties between defence industry [sic]," Ms. Kallas said, adding that there were hesitations here among the College of Commissioners (comprised of Commissioners from the 27 EU countries).

With Russia escalating its attacks on Ukraine in recent weeks, the Europeans are grappling with how to navigate New Delhi's closeness to Moscow.

"India's participation in Russia's military exercises and its purchase of Russian oil stand in the way of closer ties, because ultimately, our partnership is not only about trade, but also about defending rules-based international order," Ms. Kallas said.

The European Commission's High Representative for Foreign Affairs Kaja Kallas and European Commissioner for Trade Maroš Šefčovič at a press conference in Brussels, Belgium on Wednesday. REUTERS

"It is of utmost importance to the EU that any enablement of the war be curtailed," the strategy document says.

The negotiations with New Delhi would address these challenges with the aim of adopting a joint roadmap at the next EU-India summit in early 2026, according to Ms. Kallas.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was "delighted" by the adoption of the new strategic document. "We remain committed to an early and peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict," he said, reflecting on his phone call on Wednesday with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

India and the EU have been seeking to bolster ties in the face of increasing geopolitical uncertainty and challenges in their trade relationships with the U.S.

Trade between India and the EU has grown over 90% in the last decade, Mr. Šefčovič said at Wednesday's press conference, but the two sides had just "scratched the surface", according to the Commissioner. Brussels and New Delhi are hoping to conclude a trade deal by the end of the year.

Mr. Šefčovič said he was in frequent touch with Mr. Goyal but wished that there had been "more progress" on talks during his visit to New Delhi last week. He also said that Indian trade negotiators have a reputation for being "tough".

Tariff barriers

On the question of agricultural tariffs, Mr. Šefčovič said that the issue was not about numbers but rather about whether what was being offered was commercially meaningful, after taking into account tariff and non-tariff barriers. He cited India's Qualitative Control Orders (QCOs) as an example and said they were something the EU should consider in its negotiations.

The 14th round of trade talks is due to take place in Brussels from October 6-10.

Quizzed specifically on India's participation in the recent Zapad-2025 military exercises led by Russia, Ms. Kallas said she had spoken to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday. She reiterated that exercises with Russia and buying oil were issues to the relationship.

"The question is always whether we leave this void to be filled by somebody else. So we try to fill it ourselves," she said in response to the question on cooperation with India. She responded similarly, when quizzed on India's apparent détente with China.

The College of Commissioners had agreed that the EU should deepen ties with India to "not really push them into Russia's corner".

Ms. Kallas cited the principle of 'nothing is agreed until everything is agreed' several times, including when asked about how the trade talks would be impacted if India did not take on board the EU's concerns regarding Russia.

Delhi court refuses urgent hearing on Adani gag order

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Court says it will take up case today; it asks petitioner 'if it a matter of life and death'

A Delhi court on Wednesday declined to urgently hear journalist Paranjoy Guha Thakurta's appeal against an injunction restraining him from publishing allegedly defamatory content about Gautam Adani's Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL).

District Judge Rakesh Kumar Singh of the Rohini court said the matter would be taken up on September 18. "It will be heard tomorrow at 10 a.m.," he said. "What if your client doesn't publish for two days? Is it a matter of life and death?" the court added, dismissing the plea for urgent hearing.

Senior advocate Trideep Pais, appearing for Mr. Thakurta, argued that the injunction was over-broad, and issued without hearing Mr. Thakurta. "The court has not shown what material is defamatory. It is the duty of the plaintiff to identify what is defamatory, and for the court to rule on it," Mr. Pais submitted.

Senior advocate Anurag Ahluwalia, representing AEL, opposed the request for an urgent hearing, saying there was no exceptional circumstance to depart from the regular schedule.

Mr. Thakurta, along with journalists Ravi Nair, Abir Dasgupta, Ayaskant Das, and Ayush Joshi, have challenged the September 6 *ex parte* interim injunction in favour of AEL.

Special Civil Judge Anuj Kumar Singh restrained nine journalists, activists, and entities from publishing or circulating "unverified, unsubstantiated and *ex facie* defamatory" reports about AEL, and directed the removal of such content within five days. The order also allowed the company to identify additional online material it considered defamatory, which intermediaries and platforms were required to take down within 36 hours.

Armed forces committed to remain agile, self-reliant, and future-ready, says CDS

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Anil Chauhan has stressed the need for continuous reforms in armed forces to ensure preparedness in an increasingly complex global security environment.

Speaking at the concluding day of the Combined Commanders' Conference 2025 in Kolkata, Gen. Chauhan summarised the key outcomes of the meet, and reiterated the armed forces' commitment to remain agile, self-reliant, and future-ready.

According to the Ministry of Defence, discussions emphasised enhancing jointness and integration across the three services, fostering interoperability, streamlining decision-making, and reforming institutional structures in critical domains such as space, cyber, information and special operations. The sessions also underlined the importance of adopting a technology-driven approach to modern warfare, seamlessly integrating innovations into operational doctrines.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, with Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Tri-service chiefs Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, General Upendra Dwivedi and Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh. X/ANI

Border concerns

The conference facilitated open-forum deliberations on India's strategic neighbourhood, with a focus on the evolving security dynamics across the borders and beyond. Key issues such as procurement processes, delegation of financial powers, and challenges in acquiring advanced equipment were debated. The review of the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) reaffirmed that the welfare of personnel and veterans remains a central priority, the Ministry added.

It further said that the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh added weight to the proceedings. Both leaders lauded the armed forces' exemplary service in safeguarding the nation and highlighted the need for continuous reforms, technological self-reliance, and greater thrust on indigenous defence development and manufacturing.

Two Maoists killed during encounter in Chhattisgarh

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

At least two Maoists were killed by security forces in an encounter in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Wednesday, police said.

A senior police officer said a gunfight broke out around 3 p.m. when Maoists opened fire on a team of security personnel, which was conducting a search operation.

The officer said intermittent firing was on till the evening.

"So far, during the search operation, bodies of two Maoists, one .303 rifle, one barrel grenade launcher, explosives and other material have been recovered from the encounter site," the officer said.

A statement from the police said, given that the operation is ongoing, the location of the encounter, the number of security personnel involved and other sensitive information "cannot be shared at this time".

In another incident in the district, Maoists stabbed to death a 36-year-old man, accusing him of being a 'police informer'.

SC cancels bail granted to gangster Chhota Rajan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday cancelled the bail granted by the Bombay High Court to gangster Rajendra Sadashiv Nikalje, also known as 'Chhota Rajan', who is serving a life sentence for the 2001 murder of hotelier Jaya Shetty.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta cancelled the bail bond while noting that Nikalje was serving sentence in another case. The bench also pointed out that he had been a fugitive for 27 years.

"Why should we suspend the sentence of such a man?" Justice Mehta remarked.

Congress accuses Centre of 'false claims' over approval for Adani coal mine in M.P.

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday refuted the Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry's (MoEFCC) claim that the land for the Adani Group's Dhirauli coal mining project in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli district was not in a protected area. Mr. Ramesh reiterated the allegations he made last week that there had been "blatant irregularities" in the project's approval process.

"In Dhirauli, Madhya Padesh, Modani [a reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Adani Group] has begun cutting

Jairam Ramesh

trees on Govt and forest land for its coal mine – without Stage-II forest clearance and in violation of the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) [PESA] Act, 1996" Mr. Ramesh, a former Union Environment Minister, had alleged on September 12 on X.

The MoEFCC termed Mr. Ramesh's claims to be "factually incorrect and misleading". "Both Stage-I and Stage-II approvals have been duly granted by the Ministry. As per information received from the State, the said land does not fall in PESA area and neither the area concerned is 5th Schedule Area," the Ministry had said.

But Mr. Ramesh, termed the claim "false". "On August 9, 2023, the then Union Minister of Coal answered in the Lok Sabha that the Dhirauli coal mining project fell in an area protected under the Fifth Schedule," the Congress leader said.

Fast for Ladakh's Statehood continues, protesters vow to remain 'apolitical'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

As the hunger strike by Ladakh activist Sonam Wangchuk entered the seventh day, over a hundred people from remote villages in the region bordering China joined the protest in Leh.

The Leh Apex Body (LAB), on whose behalf Mr. Wangchuk has been leading the protests, said that it has decided to keep the movement "apolitical" and members of the Congress party associated with the movement have been asked to step down.

Cherring Dorjay Lakruk, president of the powerful Ladakh Buddhist Association (LAB) and co-convenor of the LAB, said the protest will continue

People gather in Leh during Sonam Wangchuk's fast for Ladakh's inclusion under the Constitution's sixth schedule and Statehood. PTI

even if the Union Home Ministry resumed talks. He said the demands for constitutional safeguards such as inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution (tribal status) and Statehood would remain.

Thupstan Chhewang, the former BJP MP who represented the LAB in talks with the Ministry but resigned in June citing "individual agendas and competing interests", has decided to return to the grouping, Mr. Lakruk said.

The development comes ahead of the elections for the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, expected in October-November this year.

After Ladakh became a Union Territory in 2019, civil society groups erupted in protests several times demanding constitutional safeguards to preserve land and culture, and employment opportunities.

After several rounds of talks, President Droupadi Murmu on June 3 notified four Regulations, defining new policies on reservation, languages, domiciles, and composition of hill councils for Ladakh.

"We have decided to remain neutral during the upcoming elections. The government has sent feelers that the Home Ministry will resume talks if Sonam Wangchuk ends the hunger strike. More and more people are joining the protests," Mr. Lakruk said.

Flood aid of ₹1,600 crore is 'injustice' to Punjab: Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the devastation caused by floods in Punjab and sought a comprehensive relief package.

In a letter dated September 16, Mr. Gandhi said the interim relief of ₹1,600 crore announced by the Centre does "grave injustice" to the people of Punjab. "Estimates suggest that the State has suffered a loss of at least ₹20,000 crore. This crisis demands a bolder response. I request the government to facilitate a quick assessment of the damage and deliver a comprehensive relief package," he said in his letter, shared by the Congress on Wednesday.

On Monday, he visited and interacted with those affected by the floods.

"We must come together and extend all possible support to help rebuild their future," he said.

EVMs to have colour photos of candidates soon, says EC

Panel has revised norms for EVM ballot papers ahead of Bihar polls; serial numbers of candidates will now be displayed more prominently, and their faces will occupy three-fourths of photo space

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

New updates: The serial numbers of candidates/NOTA will be printed in the international form of Indian numerals. FILE PHOTO

Beginning with the Bihar Assembly election, ballot papers on the electronic voting machines will display colour photographs of the candidates, the Election Commission said on Wednesday.

The revised guidelines for EVM ballot papers issued by the EC mandated that the serial numbers of candidates be displayed more prominently.

The guidelines have been revised under Rule 49B of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 – pertaining to the design and printing of EVM ballot papers – to enhance their clarity and readability.

The new guidelines say, "Henceforth, photographs of candidates will be printed in colour on the EVM Ballot Paper. The candidate's face will occupy three-fourths of the photo space for better visibility."

"The upgraded EVM Ballot Papers will be used in the upcoming elections, starting with Bihar," the EC added in a statement.

In a note issued to the Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union Territories, the EC said the photographs of the candidates shall be printed in colour, unless the candidate has provided only black and white photographs. The photograph printed on the ballot paper will measure 2 cm in breadth and 2.5 cm in height.

The serial numbers of candidates/NOTA will be printed in the international form of Indian numerals. The font will be in bold, and its size will be 30.

For Assembly elections, pink-coloured paper of specified RGB values shall be used.

The note said the names of not more than 15 candidates shall be arranged on one sheet of a ballot paper and NOTA option will be placed after the last name of the panel. If the number of contesting candidates together with the NOTA option is fewer than 16, the space below the panel after this shall be kept blank, the EC said.

Government press
Printing of EVM ballot paper shall be done preferably at a government or semi-government printing press. However, in case a government/semi-government press is not available or does not have the required capacity, private printing press(es) with required capacity can be selected after following due procedure and adequate provision and safety of the process shall be ensured as per the existing instructions, the note said.

Birthday greetings pour in for PM from BJP colleagues, rival parties, world leaders

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Special occasion: A sand sculpture made in Puri to celebrate the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Greetings poured in from world leaders, party colleagues, allies, and Opposition leaders for Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 75th birthday on Wednesday.

U.S. President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, and former U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak were among those who extended their greetings to Mr. Modi.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that under Mr. Modi's leadership, India had become a centre of global aspirations. "From the moon's south pole to the depths of the ocean in Dwarka (Gujarat), he [Mr. Modi] has brought glory to both heritage and science. Under his leadership, India is setting new milestones in the space sector. From indigenous COVID vaccines and defence systems to start-ups, innovation, ensuring fair prices for farmers' crops, and advancing the manufacturing mission – Modi*ji* is building a self-reliant India across every sector," Mr. Shah said.

BJP president J.P. Nadda said that with the motto of '*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas*' (together with all, development for all, trust of all, and efforts of all), the Prime Minister had taken numerous transformative steps for the uplift of all sections of society. "Under your visionary leadership, our nation's spiritual and cultural heritage has gained global recognition. Your able guidance is a source of inspiration for all of us – countless BJP workers," Mr. Nadda said.

'Long life'
Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, wished Mr. Modi good health and a long life.

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) supremo Naveen Patnaik, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati also conveyed their wishes.

Leaders from the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance also sent their wishes through posts on social media platform X.

"We are truly fortunate to have the right leader at the right time, guiding our nation with clarity and determination. His absolute commitment to the people and our nation's prosperity, reflected in '*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*' and the bold reforms he has championed, has touched countless lives and brought meaningful change across the country," TDP chief and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said.

Janata Dal(U) supremo and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, along with Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party-Ram Vilas (LJP-RV) chief Chirag Paswan, also extended birthday greetings to the Prime Minister.

Bihar election to be focus of Cong. meet in Patna on Sept. 24

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) will be held on September 24 in Patna where the party's top leadership is set to brainstorm on the upcoming Bihar Assembly polls, a source said on Wednesday.

The Patna meeting will be an extended CWC meeting, with permanent and special invitees, Chief Ministers of party-ruled States, Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chiefs and Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leaders too being invited.

"The focus is likely to be on Bihar, the party's campaign strategy, future polls and alleged 'vote *chori*'," the source cited above said.

The meeting comes amid seat-sharing talks between Opposition *Mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance) allies and just days after Rahul Gandhi's 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' against alleged "vote *chori*" and the special intensive revision of electoral rolls that has energised the party workers in the State.

Gearing up
On Tuesday, the party set up its Pradesh Election Committee, which includes the likes of the Bihar unit chief Rajesh Ram, Shakeel Ahmed Khan and Madan Mohan Jha, to get battle-ready for the elections.

Though the Election Commission is yet to announce the schedule, the Assembly elections in Bihar are likely to take place around November.

Patna HC directs Congress to take down AI-generated video of Modi's mother

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The Patna High Court order will enable clean politics, BJP spokesperson Kuntal Krishna said

The Patna High Court on Wednesday directed the Congress to remove from its social media handles an AI-generated video depicting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his late mother. A Division Bench headed by Acting Chief Justice P.B. Baijanthri passed the order on a public interest litigation petition filed in the court.

The court also issued notices to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and other relevant parties. In the petition, the Union government and the Election Commission were also named as respondents.

The official X account of the Bihar Congress had posted the 36-second clip on September 10, 2025 showing the Prime Minister's mother rebuking him over his politics in a dream.

The court stated that such a video violates guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court and various High Courts. It directed social media intermediaries to prevent circulation of the video, saying the right to privacy and dignity was part of the fundamental rights of a person.

Reacting to the court's order, the ruling Janata Dal (United) and the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders yet again criticised the Opposition over the issue, calling the video "dirty politics".

"The Patna High Court order with regard to the AI-generated video of PM and his late mother will enable clean politics. The order proves that politics should not stoop so low. The Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal know very well that the days of their politics are over in Bihar. They are doing such things out of frustration, knowing well that they are going to lose the upcoming Assembly election," said BJP spokesperson Kuntal Krishna.

JD(U) MLC and spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said, "That video was derogatory socially and politically as well."

Education Ministry tells schools to screen movie based on Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Education Ministry has directed schools under the CBSE, Kendriya Vidyalayas, and Navodaya Vidyalayas to screen the non-feature film *Chalo Jeete Hain*, which is loosely based on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's childhood.

The move coincided with Mr. Modi's 75th birthday on Wednesday.

"You are requested to issue necessary directions to schools for screening of *Chalo Jeete Hain*, film for students between 16th September to 2nd October, 2025," said the Ministry's letter, which was dated September 11 and released publicly on Wednesday.

"It will help young learners to reflect on themes of character, service and responsibility. The movie can also serve as a case study for moral reasoning, and support goals of social-emotional learning, developing empathy, self-reflection, critical thinking and inspiration," it said.

The film, which was released seven years ago, was awarded the National Award for Best Non-Feature Film on Family Values at the 66th National Film Awards, the Ministry added.

Ex-Hurriyat chief Abdul Gani Bhat passes away

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Former Hurriyat chairman Professor Abdul Gani Bhat, who became the face of Delhi-Srinagar talks with the NDA government in the 2000s, passed away in Sopore in north Kashmir on Wednesday. He was 89.

According to family members, Bhat had been unwell for the past few days and "passed away peacefully at his residence".

Official sources said the administration suggested that the family "conclude the final rites by Wednesday night". Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and others from Srinagar were not allowed to visit Sopore.

A staunch advocate of talks on Kashmir with both Delhi and Islamabad, Bhat was among the few separatist leaders who publicly met then-Deputy Prime Minister and BJP leader L.K. Advani in 2004. He earned both criticism and praise for his statements made after the meeting.

Despite issues, online RTI queries may cross one million in 2025

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Already, 7,66,167 requests have been filed so far in 2025.

The Union government may have made it cumbersome to file Right to Information (RTI) applications online, but that has not deterred transparency activists and the general public from seeking information.

Every month, thousands of RTI applications, sometimes more than one lakh, are being filed with the Union government and other public authorities, show data provided to *The Hindu* by the Department of Personnel and Training, which runs the RTI online portal.

This has come even as the website deals with increased failure rates, besides adding a 'speed-breaker' in the form of a one-time passcode before an application is filed.

The number of applications filed are growing each year, with 7,09,323 requests in 2022, 8,44,262 in 2023, and 9,64,813 applications in 2024, representing a 14-19% yearly growth. Already, 7,66,167 requests have been filed so far in 2025, and the numbers could exceed one million this year. These numbers do not represent all RTI applications sent to the Central government, as many are filed physically. Besides, the State governments and the Election Commission maintain separate portals.

The RTI portal was launched in 2013, and in recent years users have complained of lengthy downtimes and payment failures.

Users have also reported long wait times for receiving OTPs.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-mail: eephbhpt@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA.
Parmanandpur, Railway Station Road, Bhawanipatna, Dist: Kalahandi, PIN-766002
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Identification No. SEPH-BHPT–28 of 2025-26/ Dt. 15.09.2025
e-Procurement Notice

01.	Name of the Work	: 1 no Work
02.	Type of Bid	: Double Bid System
03.	Approx. Estimated Cost	: Rs.127.67 Lakh
04.	Period of Completion	: 3 to 6 Calendar Months
05.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 AM of dt.20.09.2025 to 5.00 PM of 06.10.2025
06.	Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal.	: 5.00 PM of 06.10.2025
07.	Date & Time of opening of technical bids	: At 11:30 AM of 08.10.2025.
08.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Additional Chief Engineer, P.H.Division, Bhawanipatna, Railway Station Road, At/Po-Parmanandpur-766002. Dist.-Kalahandi.

Further details can be seen from the website http://tenders.ori.nic.in or www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Addl. Chief Engineer, P.H.Division, Bhawanipatna.
C-1087: OIPR-13059/11/0046/2526

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA SLUM DEVELOPMENT BOARD
No. 55, Abhaya Complex, Risaldar Street, Seshadripuram,BENGALURU-560 020. Ph.:080-23460085
No: KSDB/Commr/CE/RAY/2025-26 Dated:12.09.2025
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(THROUGH KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY) (TWO COVER SYSTEM) (CALL-2)
The Karnataka Slum Development Board (KSDB) Bengaluru invites item rate tenders as per SBD KW-4, for the **Construction of new Houses & Balance works for slum dwellers of Rajarajeshwarinagara Constituency under RAY scheme** from the eligible class-1 registered KPWD/CPWD contractors.

Calendar of Events	
Date and Time for Pre-Bid Conference	30.09.2025 at 11:00 AM
last date and time for receipt of Tender Documents	21.10.2025 upto 5.30 PM
Time and Date of Opening of Tender Document (Qualification Criteria) Technical bid	24.10.2025 at 11:00 AM
Place of Pre-Bid Conference and Opening of Tender Documents	Office of the Chief Engineer, Karnataka Slum Development Board #55, 1st Floor, Abhaya Complex, Risaldar Street, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020 Phone: +91 80 23564651, 23462436 Email ID: ksdbce@gmail.com, Website: https://ksdb.karnataka.gov.in
Opening of Financial bid	Will be intimated to the qualified tenderers.

If there are any changes to the above notification, it will be published in e-procurement portal only. Tender Documents, schedule, specifications are available on the website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Tender form fees & EMD details are available on the kpp portal. EMD and tender processing fees shall be paid using e-procurement payment modes only. Tender application must be accompanied by earnest money deposit specified for the works and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of tender date.
Sd/- Commissioner,
DIPR/CP/JA/2846/2025-26 Karnataka Slum Development Board, Bangalore

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग सम्भाग भरतपुर
क्रमांकः अमुअ/भरत/त.स./2025–26/डी– 1285 दिनांकः 8/9/25
संशोधन पत्र निविदा सूचना संख्या 13/2025–26
इस कार्यालय के पत्र क्रमांक एसीई/बीटीपी/निविदा/2025–26/डी–1194 दिनांक 28.08.2025 से जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 13/2025–26 बजट घोषणा 2024–25 के अन्तर्गत भरतपुर संभाग के अधीन जिला डीग में बाईपास निर्माण मय आर.ओ.बी. कार्य के लिए, जो कि एसपीपी पोर्टल पर NIB NO. PWD2526A2967 & UBN NO. PWD2526WLOB11157 से प्रकाशित हुई है, के कॉलम संख्या 4 में कार्य की अनुमानित लागत जीएसटी सहित (राशि लाखों में) राशि रू0 6306.00 लाख के स्थान पर राशि रू0 6441.70 लाख पढा जावें।
निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।
NIT RO NO. 12819 (जयलाल मीना)
DIPR/C/13315/2025 अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Bharatpur
E-mail:- aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in, acepbpr@gmail.com
Notice Inviting Bid No. 06/2024-25 Corrigendum No.10
Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT No. 06/2024-25 has extended and last date of submission has been made as date 27.10.2025. Other terms and conditions will remain as per Tender Documents.
UBN No: PHE2425WLOB07194 NIB Code: PHE2425A3392
(Surendra Sharma)
Addl. Chief Engineer (P)
DIPR/C/13119/2025 PHED Bharatpur, Rajasthan

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Bharatpur
E-mail:- aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in, acepbpr@gmail.com
Notice Inviting Bid No. 04/2024-25 & 05/2024-25, Corrigendum No.09
Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT no. 04/2024-25 & 05/2024-25 has extended and last date of submission has been made as date 27.10.2025. Other terms and conditions will remain as per Tender Documents.
NIT 04/2025-25 UBN No: PHE2425WLOB07192 NIB Code: PHE2425A3390
NIT 05/2025-25 UBN No: PHE2425WLOB07193 NIB Code: PHE2425A3391
(Surendra Sharma)
Addl. Chief Engineer (P)
DIPR/C/13116/2025 PHED Bharatpur, Rajasthan

UNSKILLED, SKILLED & HIGHLY SKILLED TENDER PAOTA-2025-26627
कार्यालय सचिव, राजस्थान मेडिकेयर रिलीफ सोसायटी, जिला अस्पताल पावटा, जोधपुर
Email Id : pmo.jod.pawta@rajasthan.gov.in Phone No. 0291-2545302
क्रमांकः–आरएमआरएस/पावटा/जो./2025–26/3935 दिनांकः– 06/09/2025
ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 03/2025–26
राजकिय जिला चिकित्सालय मे 2 वर्ष की अवधि के लिए अकुशल, अर्द्धकुशल, कुशल एवं उच्च कुशल श्रमिक उपलब्ध कराने हेतु विनिर्दिष्ट पंजीकृत बोलीदाता/संवेदक/सेवाप्रदाता फर्मो से ई–निविदा के माध्यम से निर्धारित पत्रक मे ऑनलाइन मोहरबंद निविदाएँ आमंत्रित कि जाती है जिसकी अनुमानित लागत 240.00 लाख रुपये है। निविदा से सम्बधित समस्त विवरण http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in एवं http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।
NIB. MHS2526A2639 UBN MHS2526SLOB03874
सचिव, राजस्थान मेडिकेयर रिलीफ सोसायटी, जिला अस्पताल पावटा, जोधपुर।
DIPR/C/13264/2025

INBRIEF

First batch of *hilsa* fish from Bangladesh reaches India

The first consignment of Bangladeshi *hilsa* fish has reached India from the neighbouring country ahead of Durga Puja. Due to high demand during the festive season, Bangladesh has approved the export of 1,200 tonnes of *hilsa*, though there is a ban on its export. "Ten trucks of 50 tonnes of *hilsa* have come in through the Petrapole border on Wednesday. We will dispatch them by 6 p.m. in the evening. They will be available in Kolkata and Howrah markets by Thursday morning," Fish Importers' Association Secretary Syed Anwar Maqsood told *The Hindu* on Wednesday. The export to India will be conducted between September 16 and October 5 .

11 militants arrested from three districts of Manipur

Security forces on Tuesday arrested 11 militants belonging to various proscribed outfits from three districts of Manipur, the police said on Wednesday. All the arrests were made from Thoubal, Bishnupur and Imphal East districts. The apprehended militants include six active cadres of Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) People's War Group (PWG), two members of the United National Liberation Front (Koireng), two cadres of the Peoples' Liberation Army, and a member of the Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (Socialist Revolutionar Party), the police said. The security forces also recovered rifles, 382 rounds of ammunition from those arrested. PTI

Two shot dead over firing outside Disha Patani's home

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Two members of the Rohit Godara and Goldy Brar gang, who were allegedly involved in a shooting incident outside actor Disha Patani's Bareilly house, were killed in a joint encounter by the Delhi's Police Special Cell, Haryana STF, and Uttar Pradesh STF on Wednesday, officials said.

The two have been identified as Ravindra, a resident of Rohtak, and Arun, from Sonipat, Haryana.

Prior to the encounter, the Delhi Police had alerted the Haryana STF to the movement of the two accused, following which there was a strict monitoring of vehicles on the Sonipat-Ghaziabad border.

According to sources, the duo tried fleeing from the spot of their arrest and in the exchange of fire, a bullet hit a vehicle of the Haryana Police and another injured a Delhi Police officer.

"The two were directly involved in the shooting incident outside Disha Patani's house in Bareilly and were injured in a shootout near Tronica City, Ghaziabad," said a senior Delhi Police officer aware of the matter.

Roads washed away, tourists struggle to leave Mussoorie

Hotel owners say over 3,000 travellers are stranded, unable to find their way to Dehradun; bid to fly patients from the ITBP helipad in Mussoorie fails; police ask people not to take out vehicles

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Hundreds of tourists are stranded in the hill town of Mussoorie and Dehradun as heavy rain has damaged roads, cutting off the two towns in Uttarakhand. The hotels offer free stay to the tourists who are struggling to find a way out of the hills after disaster struck Dehradun, the State capital, late on Monday.

Sandeep Sahni, president of the Hotels and Restaurants Association of Uttarakhand, told *The Hindu* that over 300 big and small hotels across Mussoorie have not taken a penny from guests who were supposed to check out on Tuesday but got stranded after roads to Dehradun were damaged.

Large-scale loss: A rain-hit locality in Sahastradhara, Dehradun, on Wednesday. PTI

Helping hand

"As far as we know, over 3,000 people were stranded in Mussoorie on Tuesday. Many of them managed to get out of the town via roads connecting Tehri at Kempty fall and Dhanaulti, taking extremely long routes," he said.

Even the 300-odd homestays in the hill town offered free stay to stranded travellers.

"We were supposed to check out on Tuesday morning but as a bridge on the road connecting Doon and Mussoorie was damaged, we could not reach the place. Our homestay owner offered us free stay and food even when we offered to pay," said Swati Tiwari from Delhi.

Daily commuters, including patients, students, and employees, remain stranded in Mussoorie. The district administration attempted to fly those ailing from the ITBP helipad in Mussoorie but after the department concerned denied permission for flying, the patients were brought down to Dehradun by ambulance, talking routes longer by around 100 km.

Ensuring safety

Only late on Wednesday, authorities announced that movement of small vehicles had begun on the vital road to Dehradun. Earlier, to ensure that people do not try to commute and jam the roads, the police kept on making announcements on Mall Road asking travellers to stay inside their hotels and not take out their vehicles.

At Sahastradhara, the area which faced the most damage in the disaster, the residents were seen looking for their belongings inside their damaged homes and shops. The administration has put up the villagers and residents of the area at relief camps set up at schools and hotels.

CAG to launch AI system for auditing and efficiency

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) is developing a large language model (LLM) to help auditors access decades of institutional knowledge, thereby improving efficiency and consistency in audit analysis using the system powered by artificial Intelligence.

The system's first version is expected to be ready by November.

Previous inspection reports will be used to train the model. The LLM will strengthen institutional capabilities in analysing large datasets, generating documents, including inspection reports,and assisting auditors in preparing comprehensive reports.

Digitisation process at the Centre and States will soon facilitate remote or hybrid audits of most government agencies and departments.

The CAG has also developed the 'Connect Portal'. The site will provide 10 lakh audit entities with a unified digital interface to directly respond to audit queries, observations, and inspection reports, making the entire process transparent.

It will be launched during the annual conference of State Finance Secretaries on Friday.

Ministry notifies new Central GST tax rates

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Union Finance Ministry has notified new Central GST (CGST) tax rates for goods, which will be effective from September 22. States will now have to follow suit and notify the State GST (SGST) rates to be levied on goods and services beginning Monday.

Under GST, the revenues are shared equally between the Centre and the States.

From Monday, GST will be a two-tier structure, wherein the majority of goods and services will attract tax of 5 and 18%. A 40% tax will be levied on ultra luxury items, while tobacco and related products will continue to be in the 28% plus cess category.

Currently, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) is levied in four slabs of 5, 12, 18 and 28%.

COP30 talks loom as major emitters dither on updating climate goals

Jacob Koshy
COPENHAGEN

Ahead of the 30th edition of the climate talks scheduled in Belem, Brazil, in November, major emitters appear to be dithering on declaring updated climate goals. Only 29 out of 195 countries have so far submitted their updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). These are voluntary targets, updated every five years by countries to regulate fossil fuel emissions. So far, all countries that are signatory to the United Nations climate convention have submitted NDCs detailing emission targets upto 2030.

The European Union, a bloc of 27 member nations, and historically the group that has been a leader in advocating that countries undertake ambitious cuts to fossil fuel production, is yet to evolve a consensus among its member countries on what their NDCs should be.

Climate rally: Activists hold a march for climate justice, ahead of the COP30 summit to be hosted in Belem in Brazil. REUTERS

EU members are set to vote this week on two climate agreements. One of them is an internal, legally binding commitment to reduce emissions by 90% by 2040, and be on the path to carbon neutrality by 2050. The other is to agree on a 2035 target, to time with the NDC requirements of COP30 (30th Conference of Parties).

The Hindu has learnt from multiple sources familiar with the EU's climate negotiations that there was "disagreement" among its member countries that were yet to be ironed out, with some major EU member countries, including France and Germany, preferring that a vote on the matter be postponed.

They indicated, however, that the EU would announce its updated NDC before COP30 commences on November 10.

Andre Lago, COP President and veteran Brazilian diplomat, said that this would be an "implementation" COP rather than stressing on a headline-grabbing cover text to signal forward movement on ambition. New coalitions on a leadership role appear to be forming.

The 2015 Paris Agreement, which 195 countries have ratified, requires countries to submit updated NDCs every five years to show the steps undertaken by them to keep average temperatures from rising, "as far as possible", above 1.5 degree Celsius by the end of the century, and certainly below 2 degree Celsius.

Top court seeks CBI probe into tiger poaching ring

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The petition referred to media reports of poaching gangs in central India catering to a clientele in the Southeast Asia region

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Union government, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and State of Maharashtra to explain the presence of a well-organised, transnational poaching syndicate threatening the survival of India's tigers in their own heartlands of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai took serious note of a writ petition filed by petitioner-advocate Gaurav Kumar Bansal who highlighted the report of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the Maharashtra government which has unearthed the existence of a well-oiled network of tiger poachers and international traffickers in the big cat's body parts and wildlife trophies in violation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

India is home to more than 70% of the world's wild tiger population. Both Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh host some of the most critical tiger reserves and corridors. The court has also issued formal notice to the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

The petition referred to media reports of poaching gangs in central India catering to clientele in Southeast Asian countries, including Myanmar, and providing illegal products such as 'bone glue' made by pressure-cooking tiger bones and prized in Southeast Asia as a traditional remedy. Mr. Bansal has sought a CBI investigation into the inter-State menace of poaching.

"The case reveals a massive financial trail involving hawala operations and cross-border smuggling, thereby raising issues not only of environmental concern but also of national security and international obligations. By its very nature, the case goes beyond the jurisdiction of any single State or forest department and calls for the involvement of investigative agencies," the petition submitted.

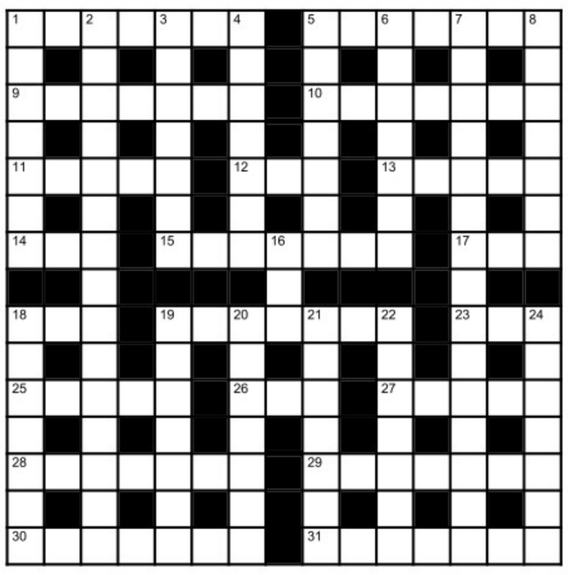
The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, a Central government agency, had issued a "red alert" in February to field directors of tiger reserves across the country, urging them to intensify patrolling to stop poaching of big cats.

TH CROSSWORD + 14592

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Famous teen having very old records (7)
5 Cretan Princess injured in a dare (7)
9 That is covering seed barely from inside the womb (2,5)
10 I stamp merrily on old, thick layer of paint (7)
11 Adult, radicalised a bit (5)
12 Oddly Russia is a nation (3)
13 Some malai kababs for a Siberian dog (5)
14 Lady's there! Naked! (3)
15 Stone dealer moving around millions (7)
17 Disheartened, idealistic, close to penury and bitter (3)
18 Roger's missing stirred up fear (3)
19 A squire holding an appropriate perquisite (7)
23 Fire shaft left ignored (3)
25 Dominant problem, perhaps for mountainsides (5)
26 Calm and anger mixed! That is miracle! (3)
27 Sheeplike or cowlike, not black! (5)
28 Destroying his ego without resistance is villainous (7)
29 Office fellow replaced by right one for an opening (7)
30 Free love - cost involved in simple joy! (7)
31 Seaman's dancing in a group (2,5)

Down

1 Bearing of leader of Zaire boarding train - sophisticated, not ordinary, not cold (7)
2 Court sees man rue, shifts to corrective actions (15)
3 Repeat freely, repeat it, without pressure (7)
4 Love lying around with turtles occasionally, on a kind of curve (7)
5 Jehangir skinned, cut founder of Mughal dynasty for a big Chinese corporate (3,4)
6 Kind of ideal cops, lawmaker ran through (7)
7 Differences arising due to Princess' correspondences (15)
8 My American ego hurts over vote for inter-community marriage (7)
16 Managed unlimited endowment (3)
18 Fat head of anarchists is surprisingly poised (7)
19 Bit of a dreamer, Icarus found a land across the pond (7)
20 A priest is devout, rejects love in foolish manner (7)
21 Plant name, exotic one (7)
22 It's more about sensuality (7)
24 Interpreter of religious text crosses borders, hexed to come to England (7)

SUDOKU

		2	3		7		8	
8					1		2	
		9			8	6		
				7		5		
		3	2		5	4		
		4		9				
		8	4			1		
	7		1					6
	9		7		2	8		

No.SS6645 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	2	8	9	1	7	6	5	4
1	5	4	3	6	8	9	7	2
9	6	7	5	4	2	8	3	1
8	1	9	2	5	3	7	4	6
2	4	5	6	7	9	1	8	3
7	3	6	1	8	4	5	2	9
6	7	2	8	3	1	4	9	5
5	8	3	4	9	6	2	1	7
4	9	1	7	2	5	3	6	8

FAITH

Responsible for all creation

Thiruvellarai is one of the 108 Divya Desams, dear to Sri Vaishnavas. Pillai Perumal Iyengar in his verse on this kshetra shows us that Lord Narayana is responsible for *samashti srishti*, said K.B. Devarajan in a discourse. That means He is responsible for all creation. Brahma emerged from His navel, and Siva was Brahma's son. He refers to Siva as '*kallirundaan*.' One of the meanings of the word '*kal*,' is hill or mountain. So *Kallirundaan* is a reference to the one who resides in a mountain. It is Siva who is being referred to through the word *kallirundaan*, for Lord Siva lives in Mount Kailasa. Periyazhvar praises Lord Narayana as '*ulagu padaithu unda manivayiraa*' – the One who creates the world and the One who swallows it during the deluge. Periyazhvar shows us His role as the One responsible for both creation and dissolution.

The Vedas show His Supremacy. No one who has studied the Vedas will dispute the fact that He is *jagatkarana* – the One responsible for the creation of the entire Universe. Pillai Perumal Iyengar clearly had a soft spot for Srirangam Ranganatha, for he invokes the name of Ranganatha of Srirangam in his Thiruvellarai verse. The deities of every one of the 108 sacred kshetras go to Srirangam every night, rest there, and return to their respective places early the next morning. Srirangam is, therefore, a place where all deities converge every night. So worshipping Ranganatha is like worshipping the deities of all the sacred kshetras. Thiruvellarai is called Adi Vellarai, because it is one of the earliest temples, older than Srirangam. Pillai Perumal Iyengar says *vellaraiyOn thaale virumbu* – desire only the feet of the One who is in Vellarai.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,694	0.38
US Dollar	87.85	0.27
Gold	1,13,800	-1.13
Brent oil	68.13	-0.47

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2402.00	2.60
Adani Ports	1406.10	-2.10
Apollo Hosp	7888.00	35.50
Asian Paints	2493.60	12.70
Axis Bank	1126.00	4.80
Bajaj Auto	9084.00	11.50
Bajaj Finserv	2057.00	-23.30
Bajaj Finance	1007.50	4.25
Bharat Elec	412.20	9.30
Bharti Airtel	1941.30	1.80
Cipla	1559.60	0.60
Coal India	399.75	3.95
Dr Reddys Lab	1311.40	1.00
Eicher Motors	6890.50	-37.00
Eternal Ltd.	328.25	0.95
Grasim Ind	2865.40	22.40
HCL Tech	1481.50	-1.60
HDFC Bank	966.50	-0.35
HDFC Life	768.05	-6.30
Hero MotoCorp	5350.00	34.00
Hindalco	750.10	-5.85
Hind Unilever	2569.70	-11.20
ICICI Bank	1419.20	-2.40
IndusInd Bank	739.05	-3.20
Infosys	1522.40	11.10
ITC	409.30	-3.80
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	315.85	0.40
JSW Steel	1111.00	-4.20
Kotak Bank	2050.30	28.60
L&T	3685.50	17.70
M&M	3633.20	25.20
Maruti Suzuki	15801.00	228.00
NestleIndia	1204.30	0.10
NTPC	336.40	1.35
ONGC	236.88	1.79
PowerGrid Corp	287.15	-1.20
Reliance Ind	1413.80	8.50
SBI Life	1804.00	-14.80
State Bank	857.15	25.60
Shriram Finance Ltd.	623.25	5.15
Sun Pharma	1620.20	9.70
TataConsumerProduct	1136.30	44.20
Tata Motors	719.15	5.90
Tata Steel	171.36	-0.66
TCS	3172.80	27.10
Tech Mahindra	1547.20	15.70
Titan	3523.00	-33.80
Trent Ltd.	5197.50	50.00
UltraTech Cement	12721.00	143.00
Wipro	254.15	0.14

‘First round of FTA talks with Russia bloc EAEU likely in Nov.’

The next round of negotiations for the FTA between India and the European Union will take place October 6-10, as per a govt. source

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The first round of negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) between India and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which includes Russia, is likely to take place in early November, according to the Russian embassy. However, this is yet to be confirmed by the Indian government.

In addition, the next two months are going to see rounds of FTA talks between India and the EU, Chile, Peru, and a review of the FTA with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

In a statement, the Embassy of Russia in India said Minister in charge of Trade of the Eurasian Economic Commission Andrey Slepnev met Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on September 15.

Down to business: Piyush Goyal with EU Trade Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič during India, EU FTA talks. ANI (FILE PHOTO)

“The Ministers agreed on an approach under which the first round of negotiations is set to take place in early November this year in India and focus on discussing the core aspects of the future deal,” the statement said. “It will be preceded by intensive consultations between the Commission, Indian partners, and the EAEU Member States.” The Indian government, however, has not confirmed the date of the first round of negotiations.

Employees await remittance of Kingfisher recoveries

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The official liquidator has informed some erstwhile Kingfisher Airlines staff that the State Bank of India (SBI) has not released recoveries from the sale of the airline’s assets, causing delays in payments to creditors, including employees who are classified as priority creditors. The total settlement dues have not yet been determined.

Last year, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told Parliament that ₹14,131.6 crore had been recovered in the Vijay Mallya case, adding that “complete money of the attached property has been restored to the public sector banks”. In February 2024, Mr. Mallya’s lawyer told the Karnataka High Court that banks had already recovered “the principal debt amount multiple times over”, noting that ₹6,200 crore was owed by the airline but more than ₹14,000 crore had been recovered.

“Upon receipt of the sale proceeds and corresponding priority dues from SBI, the official liquidator will proceed to distribute the dividend to the creditors, including workmen, in accordance with Section 529 and 529A of the Companies Act, 1956,” the Office of the Official Liquidator under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs said in a letter dated September 8, 2025.

The letter added that SBI, the lead bank among the consortium that lent to Kingfisher Airlines’ parent company, had not yet remitted sale proceeds to the official liquidator’s office.

Vijay Mallya’s private jet is now put up for e-auction. Photo Credit: VIJAY BATE

There are 2,200 Kingfisher employees who have filed claims with the official liquidator for about ₹3,000 crore, a government official said on condition of anonymity. The total number of creditors and overall dues have not yet been fully adjudicated.

The official liquidator has so far released ₹21.80 crore towards Provident Fund dues to the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner in Mumbai, allowing workmen and employees to claim this directly. It has also realised ₹38.57 crore from the sale of four planes.

In response to a February 2, 2024 letter from the official liquidator, SBI said proceedings were still pending before the Recovery Officer of DRT Chennai, and that it had not received recovery proceeds. SBI declined to reply to questions from *The Hindu*.

INBRIEF

Rolls-Royce expands India innovation footprint

Rolls-Royce, the luxury automobile manufacturer and global power systems company specialising in aerospace and defence engines, has opened its newly-expanded Global Capability and Innovation Centre at Bengaluru. The facility would house part of Rolls-Royce’s global digital capabilities and enterprise services team, alongside engineering teams supporting civil aerospace and defence businesses, the British company said.

SBI divests 13.2% Yes Bank stake to Sumitomo for ₹8,889 crore

India’s largest lender State Bank of India announced completion of divestment of about 13.18% stake in Yes Bank to Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation of Japan for ₹8,888.97 crore. State Bank of India (SBI) has received ₹8,888.97 crore from the acquirer Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC), a Japanese multinational financial services company belonging to the Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group (SMFG), the bank said in a filing. PTI

RBI forms committee for periodic review of regulations

India’s central bank said on Wednesday that it has set up a body to review its regulations periodically. The Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) regulatory review cell will ensure that all regulations issued by the RBI are subject to a comprehensive and systematic internal review every five to seven years. The review body will be advised by a group of six industry experts, and will be chaired by State Bank of India’s managing director Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh. REUTERS

U.S. FDA nod for Lupin’s drug

Generic drugmaker Lupin has received U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for its abbreviated new drug application for Lenalidomide Capsules in different strengths, Lupin said on Wednesday.

SEBI may okay banks’ investing in non-agriculture derivatives

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

SEBI will “engage” with the government to allow banks, insurance companies and pension funds to invest in non-agriculture commodity derivative markets, Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said.

He said SEBI is also looking at a proposal to allow foreign portfolio investors to trade in non-cash settled, non-agricultural commodity derivative contracts.

“We will engage with the government to consider banks, insurance firms and pension funds to trade in the (non-cash, non-agricultural) markets,” he said.

DIIs invested $90 billion last year but stock returns stayed flat: KIE

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Domestic Institutional Investors (DII), who now comprise more than 19% of the Nifty 500 stocks, invested $90 billion over the past 12 months even in a market that gave almost 0% return, according to a report by Kotak Institutional Equities (KIE).

Barring healthcare, metal, banks and auto, which have increased less than 5%, all other indices logged negative returns for investors. IT investor returns reduced the most (20%).

Returns of the benchmark Nifty and Sensex, too, dipped in the past year, the authors of the report wrote.

This is despite the huge euphoria among retail investors, as seen from the continued large investment by them via DIIs into the market, several popular narratives emerging periodically, tax and rate cuts and a 5% rupee depreciation, they wrote.

Unfounded euphoria: IT investor returns reduced the most (20%), according to the report by Kotak Institutional Equities. REUTERS

KIE further said the high DII interest and flat market performance coming together “disprove the market’s belief in ‘flows’ as a driver of markets,” and that “drive investors (institutional and retail) to focus more on earnings and valuations.”

The comment assumes significance as multiple stakeholders in the market, including the mutual fund managers had cited improving flows into the market as one of the evidences that investors believed in the potential in the Indian market.

Still expensive

Several market analysts have been saying that Indian markets were still expensive for the tepid earnings growth corporate India showed. While mirroring the sentiments, KIE said valuations of some bank and NBFC stocks had become more attractive. Moreover, the authors of the report added most large- and mid-cap consumption stocks were trading at expensive valuations on a 12-month forward price-earnings ratio basis.

Bima Sugam entity’s website unveiled

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Bima Sugam India Federation (BSIF), the entity that will steer electronic marketplace Bima Sugam mooted by insurance regulator IRDAI, has launched its official website.

It marks the first visible step in building India’s pioneering digital public infrastructure for insurance, IRDAI said after Chairman Ajay Seth unveiled the website.

The roll-out of platform features, however, will follow a phased approach, ensuring highest levels of security, compliance and scalability.

The marketplace will progressively go live with real transactions as insurers and ecosystem partners complete necessary integration over the coming months, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India said.

Mr. Seth, who assumed office as IRDAI chairman recently, on Wednesday chaired a meeting with the insurance industry CEOs and appointed actuaries. The insurers were advised to ensure full benefit of the decision to exempt GST on individual life and health insurance policies, effective September 22, is passed on to policyholders, IRDAI said.

Govt. eyes ₹5,000-cr. clean steel-tech plan

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government is working on a ₹5,000 crore scheme to promote the adoption of clean steel-making technologies, thereby reducing carbon emissions, Steel Secretary Sandeep Poundrik said.

The senior Ministry official made the remarks on the sidelines of the ‘FT Live Energy Transition Summit India’ here.

“The proposal is under consideration for a National Mission for Sustainable Steel. It is a ₹5,000-crore scheme,” he said.

The scheme will cover all steel makers in the country, with 75-80% of the fund earmarked for secondary players, Mr. Poundrik said.

Sandeep Poundrik

It aims at promoting lower carbon emissions in steel production by encouraging the use of clean technologies and alternative materials, he added.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 22UBL2025-26
Dated : 12-09-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Signalling works in connection with Hubballi Yard Layout correction.	Rs. 61,30,709.20

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 13-10-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer/Hubballi
PUB/478/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum 4 for E-Tender Notice No. Auto_Sig_ CSDR-PKD Dated : 11.08.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Corrigendum 4, NIT	Rs. 139,40,69,610.88

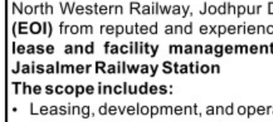
Header Tender Existing Closing date and Time : 22/09/2025 11:00 Hrs is hereby modified as 30/09/2025 15:00 Hrs. for provision of Automatic Signalling between Channasandra - Penukonda Section of Bengaluru Division. (Details already uploaded in website).
Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 30-09-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Construction, Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/476/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
DRM/ Electrical, North Western Railway, Jodhpur for & on behalf of the president of India, invites E-tender for the following work. **1. Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website No : http://www.ireps.gov.in 2. Date & time of closing of e-tender: 09.10.2025** up to 15.00 hrs. **3. Date & time of opening of e-tender:** After 15.00 hrs. on **09.10.2025 Tender Notice No.** : 15R1/2025-26 **Name of work:** Rewiring of staff quarters, service buildings, stations and LC gates & other important locations over JU Division. **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.)** : Rs. 20700026.74 **Tender Notice No.** : 16R1/-2025-26 **Name of work:** Electric Work in c/w provision of Air conditioners in relay room in SMR-BMF, LN-SMR-BLDI, DNA-RTGH, MTD-BKN and 07 stations (BOM, RKZ, HRLI, STSN, PLCC, LNLA, SONU) (total 75 stations) of Jodhpur Division of NW Rly. **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.)** : Rs. 12647282.78 **Tender Notice No.** : 33R/2025-26 **Name of work:** Electrical work in c/w Provision of Facilities on Existing TMC sidings -11nos **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.)** : Rs. 5618442.67 **Tender Notice No.** : 03R2/2025-26 **Name of work:** Power supply strengthening by provision of spare cablings, transformers & other associated items viz panels, LT/HT networks etc in colonies, service buildings and other important locations in the sections of SSE/E BGKT, SMR, BME & JSM Depots over JU Division **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.)** : Rs. 29775531.92 For detailed information visit **http://www.ireps.gov.in**
1179-DR/25
Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY **Expression of Interest (EOI) Notice**
EOI No.: Comml/AB55/JSM/25 | Dated: 15.09.2025
Subject: Leasing & Maintenance of Commercial Spaces and Housekeeping Services at Jaisalmer Railway Station
North Western Railway, Jodhpur Division, invites **Expressions of Interest (EOI)** from reputed and experienced agencies/firms for a **comprehensive lease and facility management agreement** at the newly redeveloped **Jaisalmer Railway Station**
The scope includes:
- Leasing, development, and operation of designated commercial spaces
- **Integrated housekeeping and sanitation** services across station premises **(Station Area**: Approx. 89,075 Sq.m)
- **Contract Period**: 10 years
- **Types of Spaces**: Develop and operate these spaces for permissible commercial uses such as:
  - Retail shops, branded kiosks, souvenir shops, Medical Shops, Game Zone
  - Lounges, dining areas, food courts, refreshment units, Sleeping Pods, Wellness Centre
  - Dormitories, paid waiting areas, cloakrooms, Digital Locker, Gym, Florist Kiosk
  - Bank Branche, Corporate office, coaching Centre, Shopping Plaza
  - Parking zones, cab booking kiosks, Tourist Promotion Kiosk etc.
  - Commercial Publicity (Hoarding, Digital Screen, Glow Sign Board, Mobile

Last Date for Submission: 01.10.2025 by 18:00 Hrs
Email Submission: srdcm.ju@gmail.com
Note: Detail EOI document available on https://nwr.indianrailways.gov.in/, please visit and download.
Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_ **1181-DR/25**

Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha
No.113, R. V. Road, V. V. Puram, Bangalore-560 004.
Phone: 080-25401160 / 25401161, Mob: 9606018413
E-mail: sssbn3mrh@sreenidhibank.com
PUBLIC NOTICE - POSSESSION NOTICE
APPENDIX-IV
(See Rule 8(1)) r/w Sec. 13(4)(a)



Mrs. Martina Glory .S Alias S. Glory & Mr. Jayaraj .C & Mr. Stephen Jerome .J

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Central Act No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12),13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated **02/07/2025** calling upon the Borrowers to **1) Mrs. Martina Glory .S Alias S. Glory,** W/o. Jayaraj .C, aged about 58 years, **2) Mr. Jayaraj .C,** S/o. Chinnappa, aged about 67 years and **3) Mr. Stephen Jerome .J,** S/o. Jayaraj .C, aged about 34 years, all are residing at No. 224, JSR, 3rd Main Road, Near Community Hall, Anadapuram, New Thippasandra, Bangalore–560075, demanding to repay the amount of **Rs.20,72,169/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand One Hundred and Sixty Nine Only)** together with Interest and Costs thereon, being the loan amount due by them, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers have failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s, Schedule property owner and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property owned by **Mrs. Marina Glory .S Alias S. Glory** mortgaged to the Bank and described in Schedule herein below, together with all rights to transfer by way of Lease, assignment or sale for realising the above mentioned amount (Secured Asset), in exercise of the powers conferred on them under Section 13(4)(a) of the said Act read with Rule-8 of the said Rules on this **17th day of September 2025.**

The borrower/s and Schedule property owner in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha for a sum of **Rs.20,09,752/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Nine Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Two only)** on **17/09/2025** together with interest and costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of property bearing Vacant Site No. 2314/B, Situated at Anandapuram Slum, HAL 3rd Stage, Konena Agrahara, Bangalore, Measuring East to West: 9.14 Meters, and North to South: 7.60+9.72/2 Meters, in all measuring 79.15 Sq. Meters and bounded onthe : **East By:** Site No.2314/C; **West by:** Site No.2314/A; **North by:** Road; **South by:** Site No. 2313 and 2312.

Date : 17/09/2025
Place : Bengaluru
Sd/-
Authorised Officer

CHANGE OF NAME
I Sathyavathi D/o Mathighatta Nanjundappa residing at 2nd Main, 1st Cross, Jayanagar West, Tumkur-2, Karnataka have changed my name from **M.N. SATHYAVATHI** to **SATHYAVATHI W/o Basavarajaiah,** wide affidavit dated 27.08.2025 before S.V Sudhamani, Advocate & Notary, Tumkur.

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II AT BANGALORE
New Premises at 4th Floor, Telephone House Building, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore - 560001
Original Application No. 1374/2021
Between:
UNION BANK OF INDIA
... Applicant
:: AND ::
M/s Danya Apparels & Anr
... Defendants
SUMMONS / NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23 (viii) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993, BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION
To:
1. M/s Danya Apparels
No. 11, Ward 62, Opp. Sagar Motors, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore - 560029.
2. Mrs. S. N. Riyaz
S/o Late Syed Abdul Rahaman No. 43, Eden Crest Apartments, Flat No. 303, Viviani Road, Richards Town, Bengaluru North, Frazer Town, Bangalore - 560005.
Whereas, the applicant has instituted an application / interlocutory application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 against the defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 2,47,14,581.47/-** only with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs. You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of the summons on or before **16/10/2025**, 10.30 AM in the forenoon in person or by Pleader / Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default the application / interlocutory application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 15-09-2025.
Signature of the Officer (Authorized to issue Summon)
DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II BANGALORE

JERUSALEM

Israeli troops press forward into Gaza City as toll crosses 65,000

AFP

The Palestinian death toll in the Israel-Hamas war passed 65,000 on Wednesday, as Israeli troops and tanks pushed deeper into Gaza City and residents fled the devastated area. Israel's military said that air force and artillery units had struck the city over 150 times in the last few days, ahead of ground troops moving in. AP

WASHINGTON

Trump names India as part of 23 illicit drug producing countries

AFP

U.S. President Donald Trump has named China, Afghanistan, India and Pakistan among 23 major drug transit or major illicit drug producing countries, saying that by manufacturing and trafficking illicit drugs and precursor chemicals, these nations are threatening the safety of the U.S. and its citizens. PTI

WARSAW

Navalny's wife claims that poison killed Putin critic while in prison

AP

Yulia Navalnaya, wife of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, said that laboratory analysis of smuggled biological samples found that the Russian dissident was killed by poisoning while he was jailed at an Arctic prison in 2024. His allies "were able to obtain and securely transfer biological samples of Alexei abroad," she said. AFP

TEHRAN

Iran is ready for 'fair, balanced' nuclear solution with Europe

REUTERS

Iran said it was ready to reach a "fair and balanced" solution with Europe over its nuclear programme, following over-the-phone talks with Britain, France and Germany. "Attaining such a goal requires a responsible and independent approach by the three European countries," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said. AFP

Israel accused of displacing people from southern Syria

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Human Rights Watch accused Israeli forces on Wednesday of forcibly displacing residents of southern Syria, which Israel has demanded be demilitarised in a new security deal Syria is seeking with its neighbour. The statement quoted the Israeli military as saying it is operating in southern Syria "to protect the citizens of the State of Israel".

The report came as Syrian state media said Israeli forces seized several people in the south, and a day after Damascus said it was working with Washington to reach mutual "security understandings" with Israel.

"Israeli forces occupying parts of southern Syria since December 2024 have carried out a range of abuses against residents, including forced displacement, which is a war crime," the HRW said.

As Islamist-led forces toppled longtime ruler Bashar Assad on December 8, Israel deployed troops to a UN-patrolled buffer zone on the Golan Heights that has separated the countries' forces since an armistice that followed the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

Maldives media law sparks concern over press freedom

Media activists contend the new legislation gives the regulatory commission sweeping powers, including imposing fines, suspending outlets or blocking websites in the event of an investigation

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

The Maldives parliament or People's Majlis has passed a law that seeks to regulate journalists and media institutions, amid serious concern from local and foreign media bodies over its apparent impact on press freedom.

Following passage of the Maldives Media and Broadcasting Regulations Bill late Tuesday – it was introduced by an independent MP last month – the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the Bill seeks to "create a unified regulatory framework by dissolving the Maldives Media Council and the Broadcasting Commission, replacing them with a new Media and Broadcasting Commission".

The seven-member Media and Broadcasting Commission to be established under the Bill will operate as an "independent body comprising four members elected by registered media entities through a voting process and three members nominated through an open application process and appointed by the Peoples Majlis", the statement further said.

Legit cause: Activists shout slogans as police personnel stand guard during a protest outside parliament in Male on Tuesday. AFP

However, media activists contend the legislation gives the regulatory commission with sweeping powers, including imposing stiff fines, to suspend media outlets or block websites in the event of an investigation.

Opposition members and media bodies have slammed the move, terming it an assault on press freedom. Former Foreign Minister and former President of the UNGA Abdulla Shahid accused President Mohamed Muizzu's government of "declaring war" on free speech.

"A government that silences journalists is a government that has lost the courage to face the truth. Instead of fixing the crises our nation faces, they are trying to censor the voices that hold them accountable," he said on social media platform 'X'.

Control the narrative

President of the Maldives Journalists Association Naif Ahmed recalled Mr. Muizzu's election campaign and observed it was rife with "disinformation, including about Indian military presence". "The government does not want media outlets to ask difficult questions about the economy or about its continuing relationship with India. They wish to control the narrative by curbing media freedom," he told *The Hindu* from Male. The tourism-reliant economy of the island nation has been under strain owing to high foreign debt and a wide fiscal deficit.

A World Bank Update in April this year projected a rise in inflation from 1.4% in 2024 to 4.3% in 2025, as resident contend with high living costs, stagnant incomes and joblessness. Many government critics use social media platforms to voice their discontent about government policies. Observing that the government has "opened a new door to internet censorship", Mr. Ahmed said despite many appeals from the media industry, the government "rushed through" the Bill, avoiding any serious consultation.

After President Mohamed Muizzu's victory in 2023, his People's National Congress won a super majority in the 93-member house last year.

Weighing in on the development the Committee to Protect Journalists, a global non-profit working on promoting media freedom, said the Bill would "undermine the work of independent journalists and place the media under government control".

Britain pulls out all the stops as it tries to win over Trump during his second state visit

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

U.S. President Donald Trump arrived in the U.K. on Tuesday night for a two-day state visit filled with pageantry as Britain tried to stay on the good side of the unpredictable leader, deploying all the soft power it could muster via the British Royal family. Mr. Trump, whose mother was Scottish, has professed a fondness for both the U.K. and the Royal family – sentiments the Keir Starmer government appeared to be capitalising on with a second state visit, unprecedented for a U.S. President.

After landing at London's Stansted Airport, Mr. Trump andFirst Lady Melania spent the night at Winfield House in central London, gifted by the British to the Americans after the Second World War and home to the American Ambassador.

Shortly after noon on Wednesday, the Trumps were ferried by Marine One, the official presidential chopper, to Windsor Castle where they were greeted by William and Catherine, the Prince and Princess of Wales before joining Britain's monarch King Charles III and Camilla, the Queen.

Old allies: Donald Trump and King Charles III in the Green Drawing Room at Windsor Castle in Berkshire on Wednesday. REUTERS

After a private lunch, the Trumps viewed an art exhibition and took a private tour of St. George's Chapel where Mr. Trump laid a wreath for the late Queen Elizabeth II, who is buried there.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Trump was accompanied by his daughter Tiffany Trump, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, (Acting) National Security Adviser and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Chief of Staff Susie Wiles, his special 'Middle East' [West Asia] envoy Steve Witkoff and others.

On Thursday Mr. Trump is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with Mr. Starmer. With major tech investments in the U.K. on the anvil, several tech leaders including Apple's Tim Cook, Nvidia's Jensen Huang and OpenAI's Sam Altman are expected to be present. The two sides will also announce a nuclear energy pact as well as discussing tariffs – especially on British steel and Aluminium exports to the U.S.

The public has been kept at bay with parts of Windsor barricaded up for the visit. Not all are happy with the visit. Protestors from diverse groups – pro Palestinian activists, climate activists and pro-EU anti-Brexit demonstrators – gathered in central London to protest the visit. Four men were arrested on Tuesday night after images of Mr Trump and sex-offender Jeffrey Epstein (now deceased) were projected onto Windsor Castle.

India to start pilot projects in Venezuela

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India will start pilot projects in Venezuela in "priority areas" such as agriculture, pharmaceuticals and digital public infrastructure, officials here conveyed to Raul Hernandez, Vice-Minister for the Development of Information and Communication Technologies of Venezuela, who paid a four-day visit to India.

"Both sides agreed to carry out pilot projects in the priority areas of Venezuela. Training and capacity building in the AI and related areas were also discussed, with Venezuela showing keenness to send its technical personnel for courses in India. Discussions were also held on other bilateral issues of mutual interests such as space, pharmaceuticals and tourism among others," said an official source about Mr. Hernandez's visit which coincided with rising tension between the U.S. and Venezuela after President Donald Trump accused Caracas of sending narcotics into the U.S.

Mr. Hernandez met Secretary (East) P. Kumaran of the Ministry of External Affairs on Tuesday and also met heads of prominent institutions including National Institute of Smart Governance (NISG), UIDAI for AADHAR Digital identity system, NeGD for DigiLocker, AI BHASHINI. The discussions held here coincided with consultation that Indian Ambassador P.K. Ashok Babu held with Venezuela's Minister of People's Power for Agriculture and Lands, Julio Leon Heredia where India-Venezuela cooperation in agriculture and livestock sectors were discussed.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, in 2024-25, India-Venezuela bilateral trade was around $1.8 billion, with Indian exports at $216 million and imports at $1.6 billion.

Greece set to add a fourth French frigate to its fleet

Agence France-Presse
ATHENS

Greece will move forward with plans to add a fourth French-made frigate to its Navy as part of a military build-up, the Defence Minister said on Wednesday.

The new Belharra-class frigate has "increased capabilities", Nikos Dendias said after a meeting of Greece's top security council, and legislation on its acquisition will be submitted to parliament later on Wednesday.

SRI VENKATESWARA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES-TIRUPATI
(A UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHED BY AN ACT OF A.P. STATE LEGISLATURE)
TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS
RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION
PERSONS PROFESSING HINDU RELIGION SHOULD ONLY APPLY
Applications are invited from the eligible candidates having requisite qualifications and experience for the following Posts : **1) Medical Superintendent - 1 Post 2) Principal - 1 Post 3) Registrar - 1 Post.**
For more details and application form please visit https://svimstpt.ap.nic.in. The application downloaded from the website should be sent to the Registrar, SVIMS University, Tirupati - 517507 by **Speed Post / Registered Post on or before 07.10.2025 by 5.00 PM.**
DONATE LIBERALLY TO "SRI BALAJI AROGYA VARAPRASADINI SCHEME" OR "GENERAL DONATION TO THE DIRECTOR SVIMS ACCOUNT"
Roc.No.C3/E-Office No.2616861 dated 12-09-2025 **DIRECTOR - CUM - VC**

RAJASTHAN SAMWAD
Department of Information and Public Relations, Government Secretariat, Jaipur-302005
(Telephone & Fax No. 0141- 2227325, E-mail id :- dipr.rajasthan@gmail.com, eproc.dipr@gmail.com)
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
NIB No. 61 Date : 17/09/2025
Invitation of bids for **Empanelment of Agencies/firms for High Quality Audio-Video Production** invited from interested bidders up to 03:00 PM 26/09/2025. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the state; and **https://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in/**. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 500 Lakh.
UBN : IPR2526SLOB00018 **Managing Director**
Raj.Samwad/C/25/10263 **Rajasthan Samwad, Jaipur**

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030438)
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal)
BESCOM invites tender through KPP Portal for the following: Enquiry No.:BESCOM/2025-26/SE0277/Call-2. Service Description: **Availing EVCS Operators and Security Guards Service required for EVCS across BESCOM for a period of two years.** Issue of Bid Documents: **From 19.09.2025, 11.00 A.M. Onwards.** The Bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained from KPP Portal (KPPP) Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP Portal. Further, bidders can take assistance with KPP Portal helpdesk at 9240214000, 9240214001
Sd/- General Manager (Ele.,), DSM, BESCOM
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
Notice Inviting Bids
No.1609/DSE/Proc.Cell/2025/1 dated 16.09.2025
The Directorate of School Education, Puducherry invites the following bid through GeM Portal Bid Number: GEM/2025/B/6681003 dated 13.09.2025 for the supply of Laptops.
Interested bidders/manufacturers/OEMs may visit GeM portal and submit their bid on Global portal accordingly.
-Sd/-
(AMAN SHARMA.)
DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL EDUCATION,
PUDUCHERRY
No.420/DIP/AD(Press)2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Bhavani Basin Circle, Erode -11
TNWRD
E- TENDER NOTICE
Notice Inviting Tender No.11 /2025-26/ BBC/ Erode/ Dt.16.09.2025
On behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the undersigned has invited E- tenders for the following work Upto 3.00 PM on **23.10.2025** from the Registered Contractors of Water Resources Department.

S. No	Name of work	Value put to tender (including GST)	EMD	Period of contract
	LUMPSUM CONRTACT - ITEMWISE RATE TENDER (TWO COVER SYSTEM)			
1	**Renovation of Kalingarayan Channel from Mile 12-3-348 to mile 15-4.5-195 in Erode taluk of Erode District**	Rs.8103.17 Lakhs	Rs.40,65,000/-	24 Months

1	Class of contractor	Class IA (Above Rs.25.00 Crore) as per new rules of WRD (or) Class I (Above Rs.10.00 Crore) as per old rules of WRD.
2	Period of availability of tender schedule for download	23.09.2025, 11.00 AM to 23.10.2025 upto 3.00 PM
3	Last date for submission of (uploading) tender schedule	23.10.2025 upto 3.00 PM
4	Date and time of opening of tender schedule	24.10.2025 at 3.30 PM
5	All tendering activities from floating the bid upto generating and issuing the letter of Award will be done through the Web Portal : **https://tntenders.gov.in**	

NOTE: i) It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modification uploaded subsequently in website, the same shall be taken into account while submitting tender. ii) The Tender Authority does not take any responsibility for the delay/ non-submission of tender/non-reconciliation of online payment caused due to non-availability of internet connection, network traffic/holidays or any other reasons. iii) Tender may be cancelled at any stage by competent authority. iv) **Cost of EMD of tender are to be paid through online mode only**.
Superintending Engineer,WRD,
Bhavani Basin Circle, Erode -11
DIPR/5119/Tender/2025

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Bihar)
Sheikhpura, Patna - 800 014 (Bihar, India)
EPBX:0612-2297099/2297631, Website: www.igims.org; E-Mail-director@igims.org
E-Tender Notice
E-tendering mode only on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in
E-Tender Notice for supply, installation, commissioning and testing of 12 Nos. of Modular OT's and 22 Bedded Modular ICU
IGIMS, Patna invites bids from eligible and qualified manufacturers or their authorized distributors/ agents for supply, installation, commissioning and testing of 12 Nos. of Modular OT's and 22 Bedded Modular ICU.
1. E-Tender Notice No.: 23 / 2025-2026/ Modular OT/IGIMS/Store
2. E-Tender Notice No.: 24 / 2025-2026/ Modular ICU/IGIMS/Store
The last date & time for submission/ uploading of complete tender document at www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in is 06/11/2025 up to 17:00 hours.
Details of specification of equipment's, terms and conditions can be seen and downloaded from Institute Website: **www.igims.org & www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in**
The undersigned reserves the right to accept / reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. Prospective bidders are advised to regularly visit www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and www.igims.org for Corrigendum / amendments etc., if any. It will be notified on these portals only and no separate advertisement will be made.
Director, I.G.I.M.S., Patna

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,
BSWML, 1st Floor, UNI Building,
Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560 052.
No. DGM-1/(BSWML)/PR/223/25-26 **Date:17.09.2025**
CORRIGENDUM- 1
Sub: Updation of Calendar of Events for Tender Notification.
Ref: This office Tender Notification No:DGM-1/ BSWML/TEND/09/2025- 26, Date: 30.08.2025.
As per the above subject and reference, the calendar of events for the above tender notification is extended due to technical reason. The Change in the Calendar of Events is as shown in below table.
Time schedule /calendar of events:

Sl. No		As per tender notification	Updated dates please read as
1	Last Date of Receipt of Tender	On 18.09.2025 before 16:00 hrs.	On 04.10.2025 before 16:00 hrs.
2	Opening of Technical Bid	On 19.09.2025 after 16:30 hrs.	On 06.10.2025 after 16:30 hrs.

For Further details visit GOK kppp portal Website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-
Deputy General Manager -1,
BSWML
DIPR/CP/2843/SSC/2025-26

DOUBLE DELIGHT

Smriti makes her return to the No. 1 spot extra special

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

India's Smriti Mandhana celebrated her return to the No. 1 slot in ICC's ranking for batters in women's ODIs with a match-winning hundred in the second ODI against Australia on Wednesday. India's stunning victory also ended Australia's 13-game winning streak in ODIs.

STEPPING IN

Jemimah ruled out of Australia ODIs; Tejal named replacement

PTI

India batter Jemimah Rodrigues was on Wednesday ruled out of the remaining two women's ODIs against Australia due to a viral fever with Tejal Hasanbis named her replacement. "The Women's Selection Committee has named Tejal Hasabnis as the replacement of Jemimah Rodrigues," said the BCCI in a statement.

CHINA MASTERS

Satwik-Chirag combination enters the last-16; Lakshya bows out

FILE PHOTO

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the China Masters men's doubles pre-quarters with a 24-22, 21-13 win over Malaysia's Roy King and Junaidi Arif on Wednesday. **Other results (first round): Men:** Popov (Fra) bt Lakshya 21-11, 21-10. **Mixed doubles:** Feng & Huang (Chn) bt Kapila & Tanisha 21-19, 21-13.

ON A ROLL

Dabang Delhi continues winning streak; Steelers defeat Pirates

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dabang Delhi K.C. registered its sixth straight win, beating Telugu Titans 33-29, in PKL 12 in Jaipur on Wednesday. After trailing by five points in the first half, Neeraj Narwal came to the fore with nine points. He was supported by Saurabh Nandal and Fazel Atrachali. In the second match, Haryana Steelers beat Patna Pirates 43-32.

Blazing away: Smriti smashed 14 fours and four sixes in her 12th ODI hundred. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Smriti, Kranti heroics hand Australia its biggest ODI defeat

The former's century helps India post 292, the latter chips in by sending back Healy early; the hosts level the series with an all-round effort

AUS IN INDIA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
NEW CHANDIGARH

A win against Australia in women's cricket is always special. India's 102-run victory in the second ODI is more than special, actually.

Not just because this was India's first ODI victory at home in 18 years against the undisputed queens of international cricket, but also because it was four years ago that India won an ODI against them, at Mackay.

With the World Cup starting in less than a fortnight's time, this win assumes even more significance. After the crushing eight-wicket defeat in the first match, the Women in Blue needed to bounce back. They did it in style, in front of a small but noisy crowd at the PCA Stadium on Wednesday night. This was Australia's biggest defeat, by runs. And it ended India's eight-game losing streak against Australia in ODIs.

The win was fashioned by another classy hundred from Smriti Mandhana (117, 91b, 14x4, 4x6). Her 12th ODI hundred helped Harmanpreet's side post 292. That is India's highest-ever total against the Australians, an improvement by 11 runs from the first ODI.

No total is safe against the powerful Australian batting line-up, but a steady all-round bowling effort by a revamped Indian attack, boosted by the return of Renuka Singh meant the chase was hardly on. That was also because of a much better fielding effort by the Indians after their disappointing show a couple of days ago.

A vital blow was provided by Radha Yadav, who caught Ellyse Perry off her own bowling summed up India's show. You, of course, expect such efforts from the talented fielder.

The wicket of Perry was crucial. After the loss of openers Alyssa Healy and Georgia Voll inside five overs, it was Perry (44, 61b, 5x4) that led the visitors' fightback.

Earlier, the breakthrough was provided by Renuka, playing her first match for India since last December: she had Voll dragging an inside edge to the stumps. Once Annabel Sutherland (45, 42b, 4x4) was caught well at extra cover by skipper Harmanpreet Kaur off Arundhati Reddy, Australia's hopes began to fade.

Earlier, it was almost a solo show by Smriti. The goddess on the off-side was severe on the on-side, too. The only other to touch 30 was Deepti Sharma (40, 53b, 2x4).

Smriti and Pratika had given India another fine start – 70 – in a little more than 11 overs.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Pratika Rawal c Wareham b Gardner 25 *(32b, 4x4)*, Smriti Mandhana c Gardner b McGrath 117 *(91b, 14x4, 4x6)*, Harleen Deol run out 10 *(24b, 1x4)*, Harmanpreet Kaur c Sutherland b Gardner 17 *(26b, 2x4)*, Deepti Sharma c Sutherland b Brown 40 *(53b, 2x4)*, Richa Ghosh c Voll b Sutherland 29 *(33b, 3x4)*, Radha Yadav lbw b Brown 6 *(6b, 1x4)*, Arundhati Reddy b Brown 4 *(6b)*, Sneh Rana c Brown b Schutt 24 *(18b, 3x4)*, Kranti Goud run out 2 *(4b)*, Renuka Singh (not out) 3 *(6b)*; Extras (lb-5, w-10): 15; Total (in 49.5 overs): 292.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-70 (Pratika, 11.3 overs), 2-119 (Harleen, 18.5), 3-152 (Harmanpreet, 25.2), 4-192 (Smriti, 32.2), 5-239 (Richa, 41.2), 6-247 (Radha, 42.3), 7-255 (Arundhati, 44.2), 8-272 (Deepti, 46.1), 9-275 (Kranti, 47.1).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Schutt 7.5-0-46-1, Gardner 10-1-39-2, Brown 8-0-42-3, Perry 2-0-15-0, Sutherland 10-0-58-1, Wareham 4-0-41-0, McGrath 4-0-20-1, King 4-0-26-0.

AUSTRALIA
Alyssa Healy c Arundhati b Kranti 9 *(19b, 1x4)*, Georgia Voll b Renuka 0 *(5b)*, Ellyse Perry c & b Radha 44 *(61b, 5x4)*, Beth Mooney c Arundhati b Sneh 18 *(34b, 1x4)*, Annabel Sutherland c Harmanpreet b Arundhati 45 *(42b, 4x4)*, Ashleigh Gardner c Radha b Deepti 17 *(29b, 1x4)*, Tahlia McGrath c Arundhati b Deepti 16 *(20b, 2x4)*, Georgia Wareham b Kranti 10 *(17b)*, Alana King run out 2 *(3b)*, Megan Schutt c & b Kranti 0 *(2b)*, Darcie Brown (not out) 14 *(13b, 2x4)*; Extras (b-2, w-13): 15; Total (in 40.5 overs): 190.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-8 (Voll, 1.6), 2-12 (Healy, 4.5), 3-62 (Mooney, 16.6), 4-108 (Perry, 24.3), 5-134 (Sutherland, 29.3), 6-151 (Gardner, 33.5), 7-164 (McGrath, 35.3), 8-169 (King, 36.3), 9-170 (Schutt, 36.6).

INDIA BOWLING
Kranti 9.5-1-28-3, Renuka 6.3-0-28-1, Sneh 6-0-35-1, Arundhati 7.3-0-46-1, Deepti 6-0-24-2, Radha 5-0-27-1.

Toss: Australia.
PoM: Smriti.
India won by 102 runs to level series 1-1.
Third and final ODI: Sept. 20, New Delhi, 1.30 p.m.

Childhood playmates to India teammates: the Abhishek-Gill story

ASIA CUP

Vivek Krishnan
DUBAI

It could be a silly joke that they are guffawing over, a serious discussion about cricket or just figuring out where they should have the next meal.

But seldom do Abhishek Sharma and Shubman Gill seem to leave each other's side at India's training sessions in the Asia Cup.

Theirs is a friendship that has grown organically ever since they first crossed paths at the under-12 level as aspiring cricketers in their home State of Punjab.

Their careers have largely intertwined after that first meeting, rising up the ranks through all the age groups in Punjab and then featuring for a victorious Indian outfit in the 2018 under-19 World Cup in New Zealand.

While Gill was already touted for big things by then and made his international debut a year later, it would have been a stretch to think both would be opening the batting together for the national team.

But here they are, taking guard at the top of the order in India's 20-over side a few months away from the 2026 T20 World Cup. Abhishek did open alongside Gill in a five-match series against Zimbabwe in Harare last year, but that was as part of a second-string team.

"They are feeling very good about opening the batting together. They first met at the u-12 stage. They have been playing together for Punjab from the u-14 group," Rajkumar, Abhishek's father and coach, told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

Perfect partners: Gill and Abhishek have already made decisive contributions in India's Asia Cup campaign. ACC

"At u-14s, they used to be together all the time. They would sleep in the same room.

"They just had a lot of tuning. Along with the bonding, they are able to grasp match situations in a similar way and know how to win games. Going ahead, I hope they do that for India as a pair."

So far, the signs have been encouraging. In India's two victories at the continental event, their partnerships, although small in quantity, have been rapid and allowed Suryakumar Yadav's men to race to meagre targets with the ease they would have desired.

When sterner challenges follow in the Super Four phase, they are certainly well-equipped to produce larger contributions.

The styles of the two suggest that the left-handed Abhishek will take the ultra-aggressive route while Gill will be more flexible to the game scenario. "Depending on the state of the match, they will play," Rajkumar added.

"Both can defend one ball and hit the same type of delivery for a six. That is their ability".

In the middle of it: Pakistan's request to remove match referee Pycroft from the tournament was denied. AP

Handshake row rages on as Pakistan arrives late for UAE contest

Vivek Krishnan
DUBAI

Unprecedented drama in the Asia Cup on Wednesday saw the Group-A fixture between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium delayed by an hour as Salman Agha's men threatened to pull out of the tournament over its demand for match referee Andy Pycroft to be removed from the tournament.

The contest was supposed to begin at 6.30 p.m. local time, but the Pakistan team stayed put in its hotel beyond 5 p.m. even as the UAE players had begun warming up at the venue. The Pakistan players and support staff eventually left their hotel at 5.25 p.m. and entered the arena only at 6.30 p.m. Pakistan's threats arose from India not exchanging handshakes with its players before or after the marquee game on September 14.

In the aftermath, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) alleged that Pycroft had asked the captains to not shake hands at the time of the toss, and sought the Zimbabwean's removal.

Despite the brouhaha, Pycroft stayed on as the match referee for Wednesday's game.

Once the match began, the PCB sent out a statement that read: "ICC match referee Andy Pycroft has apologised to the manager and captain of the Pakistan cricket team. Pycroft had prohibited the captains of both teams from shaking hands during the India-Pakistan match. The Pakistan Cricket Board had strongly reacted to this action by Pycroft.

"Pycroft described the incident on September 14 as a result of miscommunication and apologised. The ICC has expressed readiness to investigate the violation of the Code of Conduct during the match on September 14."

Today's match

Abu Dhabi, 8 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is
Played: 8
Afghanistan 3 | Sri Lanka 5
LIVE ON SONY SPORTS TEN 5 (SD & HD) & LIV

Clarification
However, a source in the ICC made it clear that Pycroft had apologised to the PCB only for the miscommunication and not the incident itself.

According to those in the know, Pycroft was simply passing on the message of the Asian Cricket Council's venue manager to the captains of India and Pakistan at the toss.

"The ICC's review found that Pycroft had acted in complete accordance of the Code of Conduct and highlighted to the PCB how there were no grounds for his removal or re-assignment of duties. The PCB had sent two letters to the ICC, and got a response to both. The ICC has asked the PCB to provide further information or evidence that demonstrates any violation. It is awaiting the same," the source told *The Hindu*.

Pakistan qualifies
Pakistan made it to the Super Four stage with a 41-run win over the UAE.

The scores: Pakistan 146/9 in 20 overs (Fakhar Zaman 50, Shaheen Afridi 29 n.o., Junaid Siddique 4/18, Simranjeet Singh 3/26) bt UAE 105 in 17.4 overs (Rahul Chopra 35, Afridi 2/16, Haris Rauf 2/19, Abrar Ahmed 2/13).

A change in mindset helped: Grand Swiss champion Vaishali

CHESS

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

India's R. Vaishali defended her title in the Grand Swiss Chess League, which no other player in the open or women's section had done before. But it was a tournament the 24-year-old from Chennai was not keen to play in the first place.

After a poor Chennai Grandmasters in August where she managed just one point (two draws) and suffered seven straight losses, Vaishali was low on confidence. It was at the insistence of her mentor and coach R. B. Ramesh, that she decided to compete.

"I forgot that I was the defending champion! It was two years ago. A lot of things happened in between. Especially because the Chennai event did not go well," said Vaishali in an interview with *The Hindu* here on Wednesday.

Vaishali. FIDE

"But Ramesh sir and Karthikeyan Murali told me to play as it was a different field from the Chennai GMs," said added.

"I didn't do any special preparation. I was just relaxing at home. Maybe the change in mindset helped," she said.

Winning the first round against IM Gulrukhbegim Tokhirjonova was a huge relief for Vaishali. "It was like I forgot how it felt to win a game. The wins (she won her first three games) gave me a lot of confidence," said Vaishali.

A defeat at the hands of Bibisara Assaubayeva of Kazakhstan in the eighth round nearly dented her chances, but a crucial triumph over Ukraine's Mariya Muzychuk in the penultimate round proved crucial.

"I am happy that I didn't collapse after the defeat to Bibisara, which was very important. I was lucky to win against Mariya," she said.

Vaishali said she hasn't planned anything for the Candidates. "I want to train well and be in the best frame of mind," she said.

Swinging away: Afridi's cameo took the game away from UAE. AP

INBRIEF

Siblings Geoffrey, Johann do well in QSTK Championship

Chennai siblings Geoffrey and Johann Emmanuel scripted three podium finishes between them in two different categories of the QSTK Championship at the Losail International Circuit, Doha. Geoffrey, 20, marked his maiden outing in the SuperSport 600 class by finishing third in both races. His younger brother Johann, 19, marked his debut in the Superstock 600cc championship with a victory in Race-2 after surviving a 200kmph crash in Race 1.

Mahaveer and teammates finish third overall in Italy

India's Mahaveer Raghunathan, alongside teammates Lorenzo Ferrari and Riccardo Ponzio, finished third overall and second in the PRO-AM class in the sixth round of the 2025 Italian GT Championship at Mugello (Italy) recently.

Juventus snatches dramatic draw against Dortmund

Arsenal won 2-0 away to Athletic Bilbao as the league phase of this season's Champions League kicked off on Tuesday, with two Kylian Mbappe penalties giving Real Madrid a narrow win over Marseille while Juventus and Borussia Dortmund drew an eight-goal thriller.

The results: PSV Eindhoven 1 (Van Bommel 90) lost to Union Saint-Gilloise 3 (David 9-pen, El Hadj 39, Mac Allister 81); Athletic Bilbao 0 lost to Arsenal 2 (Martinelli 72, Trossard 87); Benfica 2 (Barrenechea 6, Pavlidis 16) lost to Qarabag 3 (Andrade 30, Duran 48, Kashchuk 86); Juventus 4 (Yildiz 64, Vlahovic 68, 90+4, Kelly 90+6) drew with Borussia Dortmund 4 (Adeyemi 52, Nmecha 65, Couto 74, Bensebaini 86-pen); Real Madrid 2 (Mbappe 29-pen, 81-pen) bt Marseille 1 (Weah 22); Tottenham 1 (Junior 4-og) bt Villarreal 0.

ROUND-UP

Aradhana triumphs

Aradhana Anand won the Gold Tour Individual event in the FEI Jumping Children's Classic 2025, hosted by Embassy International Riding School.

The results (winners only): Individual: Gold Tour: Aradhana Anand (CS, Centuri); **Silver Tour:** Hasiya Pandya (Cougar 11); **Bronze Tour:** Siddharth Lutta (Frank Height). **Overall: Gold Tour:** Aradhana Anand (CC, Centuri); **Silver Tour:** Stasya Pandya (ARC, Cougar); **Bronze Tour:** Siddharth Dutta (SESA, Frank Height).

RWFSA edges out DPS HC

RWFSA edged out DPS 4-3 in the D.S. Murthy Memorial hockey tournament on Wednesday.

The results: RWF 4 (Moksith 11, Vishwa 29, Deekshith 33, 42) bt DPS 3 (Stephen Swamy 23, Abbas 36, Shahanul Shafaz 40); Shlok 5 (Prajwal Mohankar 19, Sundaram Rajwat 23, Mayur Dhanawade 26, Lovekumar Kanogiyes 33, 35) bt Falcon 4 (Govind 5, Bopanna 18, Sundhar Raj 48, 49).

Nikhil scores four

Nikhil scored four goals to power FC Bengaluru United to an 8-0 win over MFAR Students Union FC in the KSFA Super Division football league on Wednesday.

The results: MEG & Centre 1 (Sarath Narayanan 73) drew with FC Real Bengaluru 1 (R. Karthikeyan 18); ASC & Centre 3 (Vivek Sheel 18, H. Tony 87, S. Shiju 88) bt Bharat Bengaluru 2 (B. Vishal 84, M. Mudo 90); FC Bengaluru United 8 (Bidyananda Singh 45, Nikhil Raj 49, 63, 80, 88, K. Lijo 50, Altab Hussain 51, L. Doungel 60-og) bt MFAR Students Union 0.

LIVE TELECAST

World Athletics Championships: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m.

Men's T20 Asia Cup: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 8 p.m.

PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 8 p.m.

Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.15 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 5 & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

Neeraj qualifies for World C'ships finals with his first throw

Sachin also joins him while Nadeem spends anxious moments before making the grade; Nader outsprints Wightman to claim men's 1,500m

ATHLETICS

Agencies
TOKYO

Defending champion Neeraj Chopra will face Pakistan's Olympic gold medallist Arshad Nadeem in the World Championships finals as the duo made the cut in contrasting styles in the qualification round here on Wednesday.

While Neeraj stormed into the finals after clearing the automatic qualification mark of 84.50m in his very first throw in Group A, Nadeem (85.28m) spent some anxious time before making the grade in his third and final attempt later in Group B.

According to rules, those who touch the automatic qualifying mark of 84.50m or the best 12 finishers compete in the final round to be held on Thursday.

Good beginning: Neeraj breached the qualification mark with his very first throw and packed up for the day after that. REUTERS

Sachin Yadav also joined Neeraj in the finals as second Indian after his 83.67m effort placed him at sixth in Group A and 10th overall. Two other Indians, Rohit Yadav and Yashvir Singh missed out after finishing 28th and 30th respectively out of 37 competitors in Group A and Group B together.

The 27-year-old Neeraj was the first thrower in the qualification round. Having achieved the objective of making it to the final with minimum effort, the two-time Olympic medallist packed up and left the arena.

German star Julian Weber topped Group A and was second overall with a throw of 87.21m. Anderson Peters topped the qualification with a season best second round throw of 89.53m.

Portugal's Isaac Nader outsprinted Briton Jake Wightman to claim a surprise gold in the men's 1,500m.

Nader produced a devastating attack in the home straight to snatch victory in 3min 34.10sec, two-hundredths of a second ahead of 2022 world champion Wightman.

Kenya's Reynold Cheruiyot took bronze in a race in which Britain's defending champion Josh Kerr came in last, injured.

The field in Tokyo was blown wide open in the build-up to the final when Norway's 2021 Olympic champion Jakob Ingebrigtsen failed to make it out of the heats.

American Katie Moon became the first woman to win a third consecutive world pole vault title on Wednesday when she cleared a season's best 4.90m to edge out compatriot Sandi Morris in a nail-biting contest.

Morris collected a fourth world silver after clearing 4.85m, while Slovenia's Tina Sutej took bronze with 4.80m.

Kenya's Faith Cherotich overhauled defending champion Winfred Yavi on an incident-packed last lap to win the women's 3,000m steeplechase gold.

Cherotich nailed a hurdle that Bahrain's Yavi stumbled over on the final run down the back straight and soared over the last water jump before her kick took her to the tape.

She crossed the line in eight minutes 51.59 seconds – the fastest time ever at a Worlds.

Yavi took silver in 8:56.46, while bronze went to Ethiopian 20-year-old Sembo Almayew in a personal best time of 8:58.86.

Ton-up Phillipe puts Australia-A in driver's seat

CRICKET

Sahil Mathur
LUCKNOW

N. Jagadeesan and Abhimanyu Easwaran laid the foundation for India-A's reply before rain forced an early close on day two of the first unofficial Test against Australia-A at the Ekana Cricket Stadium here on Wednesday.

At stumps, India-A was 116 for one in response to Australia-A's 532 for six declared. Jagadeesan was unbeaten on 50 off 95 balls alongside his Tamil Nadu teammate Sai Sudharsan when play was halted just before Tea; a steady drizzle for over an hour ended the day's play.

The host began positively as Abhimanyu settled into a rhythm after surviving an early run-out scare. He rotated the strike with ease and found the fence on either side of the wicket.

Jagadeesan looked assured from the start, opening with a crisp on-drive followed by a straight boundary. The pair added 88 runs for the opening wicket at a brisk rate. Abhimanyu's promising 44 ended when he chopped Liam Scott onto his stumps. Jagadeesan carried on with Sai Sudharsan, bringing up a composed half-century before rain intervened.

Fortune favours the brave: Phillipe made full use of an early reprieve to score an unbeaten 123. UPCA

Earlier, Australia-A strengthened its position with a blistering morning session. Resuming at 337 for five, the visitors plundered 195 runs in just 25 overs, powered by Josh Phillipe's unbeaten 87-ball 123 and Xavier Bartlett's quick-fire 39 off 24 balls.

Dropped on 26 by Jagadeesan, Phillipe capitalised fully, bringing up his fifty in 55 balls before launching into the spinners. Harsh Dubey's over went for 19, and Tanush Kotian was struck for a six, four and a boundary in succession.

The wicketkeeper-batter's century was marked by proactive intent and clean striking. Bartlett, reprieved by Khaleel Ahmed, played with abandon, adding 118 runs in just 62 balls with Phillipe before the declaration.

The scores: Australia-A 532/6 decl. in 98 overs (Sam Konstas 109, Campbell Kellaway 88, Cooper Connolly 70, Liam Scott 81, Josh Phillippe 123 n.o., Harsh Dubey 3/141) vs India-A 116/1 in 30 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 44, N. Jagadeesan 50 batting).

Goa canters past KSCA President's XI

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Goa CA defeated KSCA President's XI by 175 runs in the KSCA-Dr. (Capt.) K. Thimmappiah Memorial tournament at Alur (3) grounds here on Wednesday. Set a target of 341, KSCA President's XI folded for 165 in the second innings. Lalit Yadav picked up five wickets for Goa CA.

At the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here, KSCA Secretary's XI batter P. Dhruv (139 batting, 314b, 17x4, 2x6) helped his team gain an overall lead of 486 runs against Mumbai CA.

In another encounter, Atharva Taide (137) starred for Vidarbha CA against Maharashtra CA.

The scores: At Bengaluru: Goa CA 165 & 272 in 93.1 overs (G. Ishaan 41, K. Manthan 60, Lalit Yadav 87, Shreesha Achar 5/94) bt KSCA President's XI 97 & 165 in 43 overs (S.U. Karthik 52, Shreyank Sagar 63, Lalit Yadav 5/58).
Assam CA 153 & 179 in 67.5 overs (Denish Das 83 n.o., Vishal Jaiswal 4/58) lost to Gujarat CA 244 & 89/4 in 17.3 overs.
KSCA Secretary's XI 280 & 388/6 in 120 overs (Faizan Khan 53, P. Dhruv 139 batting, Kruthik Krishna 77, Rajvir Wadhwa 57 batting, Sylvester D' Souza 4/60)

Vidarbha CA's Atharva Taide. FILE PHOTO: PTI

vs Mumbai CA 182.

Maharashtra CA 404 & 40/4 in 15 overs vs Vidarbha CA 380 in 118.2 overs (Atharva Taide 137, Yash Kadam 90, Satyajeet Bachhav 5/83).

Madhya Pradesh 276 & 204/6 in 69 overs (Harshit Yadav 59, Rishabh Chouhan 69) vs Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh 292 in 95.1 overs (Rishabh Tiwari 68, Ashutosh Singh 54, C. Shashank 103).

KSCA XI 270 & 181/8 in 65.1 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 60, K.L. Shrijith 55, Swapnil Singh 5/49) vs Tripura CA 281 in 104.5 overs (Bikram Kumar 51, Ghosh Roy 42, Sentu Sarkar 51).

At Mysuru: Andhra CA 87 & 500 in 129.2 overs (C.R. Gnaneswar 50, Abhishek Reddy 107, Hemanth Reddy 105, Ashwin Hebbar 83, G.S.P. Teja 43) vs Himachal Pradesh CA 455 & 8/0 in one over.

KSCA Colts 184 & 382 in 92.3 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 76, S. Toufeeq 50, Harshil 105, Aneeshwar Gautam 92) vs Baroda CA 209 & 142/2 in 56 overs (Jyotsnil Singh 74).

Antim, Manisha stay in bronze contention

Sports Bureau

Antim Panghal (53kg) and Manisha Bhanwala (62kg) remained in bronze medal contention at the World wrestling championships in Zagreb on Wednesday.

Fourth-seeded Antim steamrollered Spain's Carla Jaume Soler 10-0 in the pre-quarterfinals and beat Chinese Zhang Jin 9-8 in the quarterfinals to set up a semifinal clash with World No.1 and Paris Olympics silver medallist Lucia Yepez.

The Ecuadorian was too good for Antim as she grabbed a four pointer amid explosive action in the first period. Antim pulled one back to trail 1-4 at the break. Lucia extended her lead to 5-1 through a push-out.

Antim's attempts to attack Lucia's legs were foiled by the swiftly moving top seed.

Sixth-seeded Manisha began with a 2-1 victory over Venezuela's Astrid Chirinos before falling 0-8 to Kim Ok Ju in the last-eight. She qualified for the repechage after the North Korean entered the final.

Irish Coffee and Sekhmet may fight out the finish

MYSURU: Irish Coffee and Sekhmet may fight out the finish of the B.A.Nanaiah Memorial Trophy (1,400m), the main event of the races to be held here on Thursday (Sept 18).

False rails (width about 7m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 FLEET INDIAN PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2.00 p.m.: 1. Always For You (3) Hindu S 56, 2. Flash Back (1) S. Imran 56, 3. Adena (4) C. Umesh 54.5, 4. Miss Sultana (-) (-) 54.5, 5. Natural Look (5) Ankit Pal 54.5 and 6. Theia (2) A. Baandal 54.5.
1. NATURAL LOOK, 2. THEIA

2 ECLIPSE PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2.30: 1. Bold And Beautiful (6) A.A. Vikrant 62.5, 2. Flamingo Dream (3) Jagadeesh 62.5, 3. Gleam Bell (2) J. Paswan 62, 4. Armament (8) Gautam Raj 61, 5. Jannat (5) Kuldeep S 61, 6. Gismo (11) Vishwa V 59, 7. N R I Millennium (1) Dhanu S 58.5, 8. Meadow Flower (7) Ayaz Khan 58, 9. Pearl Of Mysore (9) N.B. Kuldeep 57.5, 10. Estefania (12) Antony 54.5, 11. Recreator (10) Vinod Shinde 52.5 and 12. Arigato (4) B. Nayak 51.5.
1. N R I MILLENNIUM, 2. ESTEFANIA, 3. RECREATOR

3 KASARGOD PLATE (Div. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 3.00: 1. Sira (11) Abhishek Mhatre 60, 2. Phoenix Gold (2) S. Mubarak 58.5, 3. Preakness (9) A. Baandal 58, 4. Cascais (8) Antony 57.5, 5. Golden Glory (5) Aleemuddin 57.5, 6. Elegant Time (1) Faiz 56.5, 7. Lex Luthor (3) C. Umesh 55.5, 8. Carter (4) Jagadeesh 55, 9. Noble Pursuit (6) H. Rahul 55, 10. Pledge (7) Trevor 55 and 11. Tyaaraa (10) Vishwa V 55.
1. PLEDGE, 2. CASCAIS, 3. GOLDEN GLORY

4 DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY TROPHY (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 3.30: 1. Aashirvad (6) Faiz 60, 2. Natural Light (2) Ankit Pal 58, 3. Natural Tornado (1) H. Rahul 58, 4. Like My Child (4) Dhanu S 57.5, 5. Magic Circle (3) A. Baandal 54.5 and 6. Chotipari (5) Laxman S 54.
1. AASHIRVAD, 2. NATURAL TORNADO

5 B.A. NANAIAH MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 60 & above, 4.00: 1. Heroism (2) Faiz 60, 2. Irish Coffee (6) L.A. Rozario 59.5, 3. Vandhiyathevan (4) C. Umesh 59.5, 4. Crosswater (1) Aleemuddin 59, 5. Midsummer Star (5) R. Shiva K 59, 6. Brave Trooper (10) Rajesh K 58.5, 7. D Gold Star (3) Prabhu K 58.5, 8. Sekhmet (9) Antony 58, 9. Shershaah (11) S. Mubarak 57.5, 10. Exuberance (7) Ayaz Khan 57 and 11. Winter Agenda (8) Brijesh K 57.
1. IRISH COFFEE, 2. SEKHMET, 3. CROSSWATER

6 KASARGOD PLATE (Div. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4.30: 1. Double Vision (6) Dhanu S 61.5, 2. Perfect Attitude (3) Antony 60.5, 3. Proud (9) Hasib Alam 60.5, 4. Walter (4) N.B. Kuldeep 60.5, 5. Beautiful Bloom (1) Madhu Sudhan 59.5, 6. Exceed (-) (-) 59.5, 7. Bellavita (7) Trevor 59, 8. Fara (10) S. Mubarak 59, 9. Master Way (5) Asirvatham 59, 10. Larson (8) Tauseef 55 and 11. Palma (2) C. Umesh 53.5.
1. PERFECT ATTITUDE, 2. BELLAVITA, 3. DOUBLE VISION

7 FAIR WOOD PLATE (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 5.00: 1. Havenlock Cruise (8) A. Hangal 62, 2. Worldly Wise (5) Gagandeep Maan 61, 3. Time For Victory (4) C.A. Brisson 60, 4. Mystic Divine (12) Faiz 59.5, 5. Reign Of Terror (7) Hindu S 56.5, 6. Sound Of Canon's (11) Hasib Alam 56.5, 7. Swaghatham (9) Md. Imran Ashraf 56.5, 8. Aurele (2) C. Umesh 55.5, 9. Cloudy Hills (10) Mukesh K 55.5, 10. O Manchali (1) P. Ajeet Kumar 55.5, 11. Sir Calculus (3) Abhishek Mhatre 55.5 and 12. Planet Super (6) Ayaz Khan 50.
1. MYSTIC DIVINE, 2. CLOUDY HILLS, 3. REIGN OF TERROR
Day's best: **PERFECT ATTITUDE**
Double: **PLEDGE - MYSTIC DIVINE**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, Mini Jkt: 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

CSPL to feature international players in season two

CUE SPORTS

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Stephen Lee, James Wattana, Rory McLeod and Pankaj Advani are some of the big names who will compete in the Cue Sports Premier League (CSPL) which commences at the Bowring Institute here on Oct. 2.

The second season of the CSPL, with Embassy Group as the title sponsor and co-sponsor Snooker Alley, marks the introduction of international players. The tournament will feature eight teams. Each team will consist of three marquee players (one international and two players), two State-level players and four club-level players.

Pankaj Advani at the launch event of CSPL. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

At a press conference here on Wednesday, multiple-time World champion Advani hailed the spectator friendly innovations which will be used in the league. "The timed format encourages quicker shots and quicker frames. The foul and miss rule has also been discarded," Advani said.

Advani was happy to see the inclusion of Lee and other international stars in the field. The 50-year-old Englishman Lee is hailed for his fluent "Rolls Royce" cue action, which allows for significant action on the cue ball.

Thailand's Wattana achieved a career-high world ranking of three in the mid 1990s.

Apart from Advani, Aditya Mehta and Sourav Kothari are among the popular Indian names. Matches will be broadcast live on the Club Liv app.